

U.N. hears Lebanon's case

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Lebanon on Monday listed a series of acts of aggression and abusive practices by Israel in the occupied southern sector. Addressing the Security Council at a meeting called at his request, Lebanese delegate Rashid Fakhoury asked it to condemn Israeli actions, reaffirm earlier demands for the withdrawal of Israeli troops and enable the deployment of U.N. peacekeepers along internationally recognised borders. Mr. Fakhoury said that "puppet forces" supported by Israel were involved in attacks that caused 43 casualties, including 12 soldiers, from Dec. 29 to Jan. 3. Mr. Fakhoury said that an escalation of Israeli attacks coincided with the recent accord between rival Lebanese factions, because Israel intended to impede a peace process in Lebanon and to maintain the status quo.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Spain, Portugal join Europarliament

STRASBOURG (R) — Spanish and Portuguese members of the European Parliament on Monday took their seats for the first time as the assembly moved towards accepting modest reform of the European Community's (EC) founding treaty. Nine years after their countries first applied to join, the 60 Spanish and 24 Portuguese members flew in on a specially chartered plane to a ceremonial welcome from assembly President Pierre Pflimlin — almost two hours late after what officials described as air traffic problems in Madrid. Their arrival coincided with a new examination by the parliament of the modest reforms of the founding 1957 Treaty of Rome which were agreed on at December's Luxembourg summit. They are designed to ease decision-making in the 12-member bloc.

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Iran ready to return Kuwaiti plane

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian Prime Minister Hussein Musavi has given permission for a hijacked Iranian Airbus to be returned to Kuwait, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Monday. The agency, monitored here, quoted Iran's civil aviation organisation head Hassan Sharif as saying Iran was waiting for Kuwait pilots to come and fly away the plane. The aircraft had been sitting at Tehran's Mehrabad airport since four unidentified hijackers brought it there on Dec. 4, 1984.

Egypt, Israel agree to salvage submarine

CAIRO (R) — Egypt and Israel have agreed in principle to salvage an Israeli submarine that disappeared off the Egyptian coast with 68 men aboard 18 years ago, an Israeli embassy spokesman said on Monday. An Israeli military delegation came to Cairo last week to review technicalities of recovering the submarine which was lost in January 1968 between the Mediterranean port cities of Alexandria and Port Said, he told Reuters. The spokesman said the delegation also discussed searching for 13 Israeli soldiers missing in action since the 1973 war, but no date was set.

Italian magistrates want Abu Abbas

GENOVA, Italy (R) — Magistrates investigating the impact of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro have asked the Italian government to extradite the Palestinian leader Abu Abbas, the Italian news agency ANSA reported on Monday. ANSA said the magistrates wanted their judicial superiors in Genoa to relay their request to the international police agency Interpol and the Justice Ministry in Rome. If Abu Abbas were located in a country that has an extradition treaty with Italy, the ministry could ask that country for his extradition. Genoa magistrates issued an arrest warrant for Abu Abbas last year.

Babangida promises 1990 elections

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria's military regime is to hand over to a civilian government by Oct. 1, 1990, the president, General Ibrahim Babangida, was quoted as saying on Monday. The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) quoted him as saying in Abuja, the planned new capital, that the new government would be democratically elected.

Court rejects Mandela's appeal

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — A supreme court judge on Monday turned down a suit by black activist Winnie Mandela seeking to overturn a state order expelling her from her home in Johannesburg, security guards it is said. Judge Louis le Grange granted Mrs. Mandela permission to appeal to a full bench of the supreme court. Mrs. Mandela, who has been in hiding on the outskirts of Johannesburg since Dec. 31, was not in court for the hour-long judgment.

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Gemayel, Assad meet in Damascus amid fierce clashes in east Beirut

'Lebanese Forces' and Falangists lock horns

Combined agency dispatches
PRESIDENTS AMIN Gemayel of Lebanon and Hafez Al Assad of Syria began talks in Damascus on Monday as heavy fighting was reported between Mr. Gemayel's supporters and opponents in east Beirut.

Militiamen of the "Lebanese Forces," the mostly Christian Lebanese rightists' main fighting machine, claimed they seized two gun districts held by President Gemayel's Falange Party in the escalating power struggle in Lebanon's Christian heartland. Mr. Gemayel flew to Damascus as the heavy fighting raged in east Beirut and his main stronghold in the Metn region northeast of the capital. Mr. Gemayel and Mr. Assad were discussing a Syrian-sponsored peace plan endorsed by Lebanon's three main militias — the "Lebanese Forces," the Shi'ite Amal movement and the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP). Heavy security surrounded Mr. Gemayel as he arrived in Damascus and his guest residence was raged by troops and nearby streets were sealed, eyewitnesses told Reuters. Mr. Gemayel went straight into talks with Mr. Assad, Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Abdul Racuf Al Kasm and Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara'a, Syrian officials said. Mr. Assad was expected to press Mr. Gemayel to back the plan, brokered by Syria and signed on Dec. 28. Mr. Gemayel has yet to give the pact his outright support, and his supporters in the Falange Party have voiced strong opposition to clauses in the pact to give Muslims more political power. "The voices which rose openly against the agreement were very limited, and some of these voices did not rise above a whisper," said Syria's Tishrin newspaper. (Syria) will not reconcile itself to those who try to put obstacles in the way of the pact's implementation," it said. Mr. Assad has publicly backed "Lebanese Forces" militia leader Elie Hobeika, who signed the accord and whose militiamen battled Falange Party fighters for control of key sectors in east Beirut on Monday. The fighting flared at dawn, when the Lebanese Forces, Mr. Gemayel's main rival for control

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Aden says coup bid foiled and 4 top leaders executed

ADEN (Agencies) — Security forces on Monday foiled a coup attempt and bid to assassinate President Ali Nasser Mohammad, and four plotters, including former President Abdul Fatah Ismail, were executed after trial, Aden Radio said. The radio said the plotters were executed after summary trial by a special committee of the ruling Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP). The radio said the situation in the capital was calm. It gave no details of how the coup attempt was organised, but said "imperialist and reactionary circles" were behind it. The other men executed were Ali Ahmad Nasser Ahmad, vice-president until last year, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Local Government Ali Salem Al Beedhi and Ali Shai Hadi, chairman of the YSP higher control committee. The radio said several other people were also arrested and would be held for trial. Mr. Antar was first deputy premier to President Mohammad until the latter dropped the premiership last February. Both were elected to the two highest posts within the YSP in October of that year. The South Yemeni leader had served as prime minister to Mr. Ismail between 1978 and 1980. President Mohammad however seized power in April 1980 in a change of leadership within the YSP. Mr. Ismail was exiled at the time to the Soviet Union. At least one other plot to topple Mr. Mohammad has reportedly been uncovered in Aden over the past five years, but there has been no official confirmation of such reports. Mr. Mohammad, like Mr. Ismail before him, also holds the title of secretary-general of the ruling party. South Yemen, the impoverished former British colony of

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Botha gets secret letter from Reagan

CAPE TOWN (R) — U.S. envoy Chester Crocker on Monday delivered a confidential letter from President Reagan to South African leader P.W. Botha at a meeting to discuss the conflict in southern Africa, a U.S. spokesman said. The U.S. spokesman refused to comment on the contents of the letter, saying: "It's being discussed at this time." Mr. Crocker, assistant secretary of state for African affairs, is spending three days in South Africa in what diplomats describe as a last-ditch effort to revive the southern African peace process. "He has been trying for five years to achieve a peace settlement linking withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola to independence for neighbouring Namibia (South-West Africa), ruled by South Africa in defiance of the United Nations." Mr. Crocker met President Botha, Foreign Minister P.W. Botha and Defence Minister Magnus Malan for 90 minutes Monday morning at Cape Town. He was to meet Foreign Minister Botha again on Monday, officials said.



RIFA'I RECEIVES ROCARD: Prime Minister Rifa'i on Monday receives Michel Rocard, a prominent leader of the French Socialist Party. Mr. Rocard left Amman on Monday after a several-day visit to Jordan (Petra photo)

Baz sees Israeli agreement on Taba dispute as positive

CAIRO (Agencies) — A senior aide to President Hosni Mubarak on Monday termed Israel's reported agreement to resolve a border dispute positive but indicated the return of Egypt's ambassador would be delayed until details of the accord were worked out. Osama Al Baz, director of Mr. Mubarak's political office, told reporters that although his government had not been officially informed on the Israeli decision, press reports "up to now seem positive." "We have not come to that yet," Dr. Baz said. "If the (Israeli) response reported in the media proves to be true, the next stage will be negotiating details of arbitration." Israel occupied Taba along with the rest of the Sinai in 1967, but refused to return the one-square kilometre strip when it handed back the last of the peninsula in April 1982. Since then, Egypt has been insisting on binding arbitration to resolve the dispute. Israel wanted to continue trying non-binding conciliation. Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres telephoned President Mubarak on Monday, Israel Radio quoted him as saying the two countries would "solve all the additional problems" between them. It was after a door-slaming 12-hour meeting that Israel's coalition cabinet accepted Egypt's demand to settle the dispute through binding arbitration, clearing the way for a fresh start in relations and a possible summit meeting. Early on Monday, the Israeli cabinet accepted Egypt's demand to settle the dispute over the Sinai area of Taba through binding arbitration, clearing the way for improvement in relations between the two countries. Dr. Baz was asked whether the Egyptians would now return their ambassador to Israel. Mr. Mubarak recalled the envoy in 1982 after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, and the ambassador's return was one of the conditions of the package deal reportedly reached between the two countries.

Seminar reviews Zionism, Israeli politics

By Rana Sabbagh and Sa'ad G. Haitar
Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — A three-day conference on "Israel and U.S.-Israeli relations" continued its deliberations on Monday and reviewed Zionism, Israel's political parties and the Israeli society. The general consensus that emerged from Monday's discussion was that it was quite difficult to change American public opinion vis-a-vis Arabs, and that it is even more difficult to attempt to deal with Zionism as a thought since it opposes humanitarian ideals, said Mohammad Rabie, president of the Washington-based Centre for Studies and Publishing. According to Dr. Rabie, Israeli political parties and legislations are not willing for peace with the Arabs. He said he believed that it was very hard to try to understand the Israeli social structure and hence the Israeli society. Arab, Jordanian and American intellectuals and analysts, who are participating in the conference, the first-ever on U.S.-Israeli relations organised by Yarmouk University's Centre for Hebrew Studies, have concluded that Arab researchers should come up with applicable solutions to combat the spread of Zionism. Monday's first panel discussions were on Zionism. Two working papers were presented to the conference. They were: "Zionism between Ideology and Practice: Problems of Classification and Terminology," by King Saud University Professor Abdul Wahab Al Messiri and "Non-Jewish Zionism: Cultural Dimensions of U.S.-Israeli relations," by Dr. Regina Sharif, head of documentation at Kuwait University.

(Continued on page 3)

Alami, Kollek discuss tension in Haram Al Sharif

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The speaker of Israel's parliament and Jerusalem's Israeli mayor, Teddy Kollek, met Muslim religious leaders on Monday to try to defuse tension over Haram Al Sharif, where parliamentarians were prevented from entering by angry Palestinians last week. A municipal spokeswoman said Kollek, Parliament Speaker Shlomo Hillel and Mufti Sadeeddin Al Alami agreed incitement could not be tolerated in the area. Parliament's interior committee last week tried to investigate what it saw as illegal building in Haram Al Sharif, which houses the Al Aqsa and Dome of the Rock mosques. The committee members had to be escorted from the area under heavy police guard, and the committee chairman has scheduled a return visit for Monday. Jordan expressed concern over the incident, and lodged a strong protest at the United Nations against the Israeli action. Jordan also called on the international community to exert efforts to prevent the Israeli occupation authorities from desecrating religious places in the occupied territories. The Mecca-based World Muslim League issued a statement on Sunday denouncing last week's Israeli action and urging the world Islamic community to act to prevent Israel from continuing such actions.

Craxi: Libya should distance itself from Abu Nidal group

MILAN, Italy (Agencies) — Italian Premier Bettino Craxi said on Monday that Libya should distance itself from Abu Nidal's Palestinian group, which he blamed for the airport attacks in Rome and Vienna last month. "As for Abu Nidal's terrorist organisation, responsible for the crimes in Rome and Vienna and for a long series of other crimes, (Colonel Muammar) Qadhafi's Libya has not distanced itself as it should have and in reality has confirmed its very support (for the group)," Mr. Craxi told reporters in this northern Italian city. Last week, following U.S. President Ronald Reagan's call for global sanctions against Libya, the Italian government banned arms exports to Libya and said it was considering other possible changes in close Italian-Libyan economic ties. "Italy tries to exercise its international and regional role and to anchor its foreign policy according to some guiding principles," Mr. Craxi said. He cited those principles as the "defence of peace and of security, the defence of national independence and the defence of human rights wherever they are violated." Mr. Craxi was scheduled to make a four-hour visit to Cairo on Tuesday for a meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. An Italian embassy official in Cairo said that the following topics would likely be discussed: Mediterranean security, Arab-Israeli peace efforts and terrorism. Last week Mr. Craxi sent Mr. Reagan a letter saying that greater efforts must be put into the Middle East peace process as well as towards fighting international terrorism. Meanwhile, several hundred Libyans staged an anti-American demonstration in Tripoli as the media intensified a campaign against U.S. sanctions. Marchers chanting anti-American slogans paraded to the Belgian embassy, which handles U.S. interests in Libya, as Soviet-made jets flew overhead on training missions. A Tripoli-based pan-Arab group has called for a boycott of U.S. interests throughout the Middle East, the official Libyan news agency JANA reported. The agency said the call came from the Arab People's Congress, which represents left-leaning organisations in Arab countries. The Congress said Arabs should treat U.S. interests in the region as "direct targets for all-out confrontation."

Abu Nidal admits role in attacks

ABU DHABI (R) — The Abu Dhabi-based Al Wihda newspaper on Monday quoted Palestinian guerrilla leader Abu Nidal as saying his group carried out attacks at Rome and Vienna airports last month in which 19 people died. The independent Arabic daily, reported to have Palestinian connections, said it interviewed Abu Nidal last Wednesday in an Arab capital. It said the interview was given on the understanding there were no photographs and the country was not named. Abu Nidal is widely believed to be in Libya. Al Wihda quoted him as saying of the Dec. 27 attacks at Rome and Vienna airports: "The attacks are our work... we have also carried out others in Brussels, Madrid and other places." Asked whether he thought such actions legitimate, he was quoted as saying: "Yes... absolutely, it is legitimate."

U.S. navy provides escort to vessels in Gulf after latest Iranian interception

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — U.S. navy units have been escorting American commercial vessels in Gulf sea lanes, hours after Iranian navy soldiers boarded and searched an American merchant ship in the region, marine shipping executives here reported on Monday.

"Units of the U.S. navy have been physically shadowing American merchant ships in and near Gulf sea lanes, protecting them against the possibility of being harassed by the Iranians," one maritime shipping agent, who insisted on anonymity, told the AP.

He contended the Iranians were "merely flexing their muscle" apparently to demonstrate solidarity with Libya after the recent U.S. anti-Libyan economic sanctions.

Libya supports the "Islamic revolution" of Iran against not merely its Gulf war foe, Iraq, but also against Western powers allegedly hostile to the Tehran regime of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Gulf-based marine salvage offices reported that armed Iranian navy soldiers on Sunday stopped, boarded and searched the 39,000-ton President Taylor in international waters outside the Gulf.

They said the vessel was the first U.S. flag ship to be harassed by the Iranians, who have been searching Gulf-bound ships and confiscating Iraq-bound goods of alleged military nature.

The President Taylor was searched at 11:00 a.m. Sunday at a point 50 kilometres southeast of the United Arab Emirates port of Fujairah and 32 kilometres off the coast of Oman. It was allowed afterwards to proceed to Fujairah, shipping executives said.

The U.S. ambassador to the UAE, George Lumsden, boarded the President Taylor on Monday to interview the crew after it docked to unload 105 containers.

Sources at Fujairah were quoted by Reuters as saying the Iranian navy threatened drastic

measures if the vessel did not stop.

The port sources said no violence was reported by the 50-member crew during the search of the President Taylor, of the American Presidential Line.

The Iranians threatened that "drastic measures will be taken if orders are not obeyed." But apart from that, the Iranians behaved politely after they boarded the 27,000-tonne ship, the sources said.

They said no U.S. warships, which patrol the area, were reported to have intervened during the incident. The Iranians were on board for less than an hour.

Seven armed Iranian soldiers and officers boarded the ship and opened three boxes of cargo, one Arab diplomat told the Associated Press. "What we know is that the boxes contain cotton. The President Taylor had to stop and allow the Iranians to come aboard when these Iranians threatened to blow it up."

Malcolm Stafford, general manager of Fujairah National Shipping Company, agents of the President Taylor, said the vessel was carrying "break bulk cargo" on the deck, aside from a number of containers from Pakistan.

The ship was to leave for India on Tuesday, he said.

Iran confirmed on Monday that the vessel was intercepted and searched by the Iranian navy.

The official Iranian news agency, IRNA, quoted an unidentified Iranian naval officer as saying that the ship was released two hours later, when it was determined it was not carrying any cargo for Iraq.

IRNA quoted the naval officer as "repeating once more that in

the (Arab) Gulf, Iran will seize ships suspected of carrying military hardware" for Iraq.

U.S. embassy officials said in Abu Dhabi, statements on the incident would be released in Washington.

A State Department spokesman said on Sunday the President Taylor had been stopped in international waters and the incident was regarded as "a matter of serious concern."

Tehran's navy has ordered 14 foreign ships to its ports for further checks since Iraq started bombing Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal in the northern Gulf in August.

Iran released the West German cargo ship Ville de Sahara on Sunday after a three-day inspection at an Iranian port.

In an interview on the U.S. Cable News network Sunday evening, the Iranian ambassador to the United Nations, Dr. Said Rajaei-Khorassani, defended the interception of the President Taylor.

"We think it is justified according to international law because it is not tolerable for us to see that ships are carrying or may be carrying armaments to Iraq," he said.

The ambassador compared the boarding with the 1962 Cuban missile crisis, when U.S. President John F. Kennedy ordered a naval blockade of Cuba aimed at preventing delivery of Soviet weapons to the island.

"I'm sure you felt justified to intercept the Russian ships which were carrying missiles to Cuba," he said.

The United States declared its neutrality after the Iran-Iraq war broke out. But the administration of President Ronald Reagan has since resumed diplomatic relations with Baghdad and organised a campaign to urge other countries not to provide arms to Iran.

White House spokesman Peter Roussel said President Reagan had been informed of the incident.

Weinberger: Libya did not down U.S. trainer jet

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger repeated Pentagon denials on Sunday of a Kuwaiti report that Libyan anti-aircraft missile batteries shot down a U.S. jet fighter over the Mediterranean earlier this week.

"That's absurd, patently absurd. There's nothing to that at all," Mr. Weinberger said in an interview on ABC's "This Week with David Brinkley."

The report by Kuwait's KUNU news agency quoted a Lebanese-based diplomat as saying the warplane was downed on Wednesday by a Soviet-made SA-7 missile as it flew over the Gulf of Sidra.

The KUNU report noted that U.S. navy officials in Rome had announced that a Marine F-18 Hornet was missing on Wednesday after taking off from the aircraft carrier Coral Sea and was believed lost off France's southern coast near Nice.

Mr. Weinberger said the plane was lost during a routine exercise in the Mediterranean. He said the plane went down in a storm "way off the coast of France."

"But there was nothing remotely resembling any Libyan action or anything of that kind. Their missiles don't go that far even if they had that degree of accuracy," he said.

In Tripoli, Mustafa Ahmad, a Libyan Information Ministry spokesman, said of the KUNU story, "We can neither confirm nor deny this report." He noted that none of the official Libyan media had reported anything about it.

Privately, however, an Information Ministry source said, "I think the Libyans would be the first to report such a thing, wouldn't you?"

The Coral Sea had left Naples, Italy, on Jan. 3, leading about eight other vessels from the Sixth Fleet. Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi had charged that the United States was massing warships to attack Libya.

Khamenei gets big welcome in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (R) — A 21-gun salute and thousands of cheering Shi'ites greeted President Ali Khamenei on his arrival on Monday for the first visit to Pakistan by an Iranian leader since Tehran's 1979 Islamic revolution.

In an airport statement, Mr. Khamenei said he would discuss with President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq "all aspects of mutual cooperation as well as regional situation and international problems."

Pakistani officials said talks would include the Soviet Union's military presence in Afghanistan, the Middle East situation, the Iran-Iraq war and the role of the superpowers in world affairs.

Pakistan is a member of an Islamic peace committee which has been trying to mediate in the Gulf war since 1981.

Mr. Khamenei was met at Islamabad airport by General Zia and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo as hundreds of flag-waving schoolchildren on the tarmac cheered: "Long live Pakistan-Iran friendship."

More than 20,000 people lining the road from the airport cheered as Mr. Khamenei was driven past. Many carried pictures of Iran's revolutionary leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Mr. Khamenei said in his statement: "Muslims all over the world are faced with many difficulties and problems and Muslim countries are being threatened by great dangers from global imperialism."

The remark appeared to be a reference to economic sanctions imposed by the United States against Libya.

Mr. Khamenei said he hoped his visit would "lead to the expansion of mutual relations and strengthen the bonds of friendship and amity between the two countries."

Iran's IRNA news agency reported from Tehran that Mr. Khamenei's visit was the first top on a tour which also includes South Yemen, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Angola.

Many of those who turned out to greet Mr. Khamenei were members of local Shi'ite organisations, witnesses said.

While Iran is a Shi'ite state, Shi'ites make up only about 15 per cent of Pakistan's population of 90 million, which is dominated by Sunni Muslims.

Pakistani Shi'ites have complained that their religious rights were being violated by an Islamisation programme being carried out by Gen. Zia, a Sunni.

Indo-Iranian accord

Meanwhile, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported on Monday that Iran and India have signed a protocol to improve cultural, scientific and technical ties.

IRNA quoted Indian External Affairs Minister H.R. Bhagat as saying he was "confident that mutual expectations on expansion of Iranian-Indian ties were met" by the protocol.

Mr. Bhagat signed the protocol with Iranian Foreign Affairs Minister Ali Akbar Velayati during Mr. Bhagat's three-day visit here, the agency said. Mr. Bhagat returned to India on Sunday, it said.

'Islamic Jihad' issues new threat against U.S.

CAIRO (AP) — A letter received on Monday signed "Islamic Jihad" threatened to strike the United States at "the most vulnerable points of American imperialism" to retaliate for alleged U.S. aggression against Muslim Arabs.

The undated letter, addressed to "American policymakers" and mailed to the Associated Press, warned that "retribution will be unmerciful and everywhere."

Edward Bernier, spokesman for the U.S. embassy, quoted the embassy's security department as saying the letter had not been received there.

"The Americans will experience for the first time the righteous anger of the Muslims on their own territory," the letter said in English. "We will strike at the most vulnerable points of American imperialism."

There was no way to determine whether the organisation circulating the letter was the same "Islamic Jihad" group blamed for anti-U.S. bombings, kidnappings and other extremist acts in Lebanon and Kuwait. The letter was posted in a plain white envelope in Egypt.

Most of the group's communiques are written in Arabic. The group disclaimed an English-language letter circulated in Beirut on Dec. 31 that made anti-U.S. threats.

Lebanon's "Islamic Jihad" is believed to be made up of pro-Iranian Shi'ites. Few Shi'ites live in Egypt, where Muslim majority is overwhelmingly Sunni.

A group using the name "Islamic Jihad" circulated letters in Cairo in March 1984 threatening attacks on U.S., Italian, British and French embassies to punish those governments for participating in a multinational

peace-keeping force in Lebanon. No attacks were reported.

Monday's letter said the Americans "are no longer satisfied with supporting and participating in the Israeli Zionist's crimes against Muslims in the Arab World."

"Now under the cover of the hypocritical slogan of anti-terrorism, you are more frequently making recourse to U.S. military might to initiate aggression against the Muslim Arabs. We declare with full responsibility that such mischievous actions will not go unpunished."

Vowing that the threats "are not empty words," the letter said: "We blame you beforehand for any victims among American civilians."

"You must be aware that our actions are a response to your policy of terrorism against the Muslims. We accept your challenge."

Wildcat TV strike hits Israeli viewers

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israelis crowded into video stores on Monday in search of entertainment to replace Israel Television, which was cut off for a fourth day by a technicians' strike.

The technicians stopped working last Friday to support a colleague and head of the local union who was suspended for blacking out a portion of a newscast two days earlier.

The employee, Hezi Koka, cut off the newscast because the technicians objected to showing some film shot by Vignettes, a foreign news company. They support showing film shot only by Israeli Television cameramen on the station's own equipment.

The Israel Broadcasting Authority, which runs Israel's only television station, periodically suffers labour unrest because of its monopolistic nature. The last strike in June 1984 lasted for three days and involved pay demands.

The authority is funded mostly by viewers who pay a television licence and now are receiving only colour bars on the Israeli channel. Many can also receive television programmes broadcast from Jordan and South Lebanon.

A recent poll showed that 94 per cent of some 1,200 Israelis surveyed said yes when asked if they "usually" watch television, and 65 per cent said they watch it every day.

Besides thousands of viewers, the strike affects 400 television employees, spokeswoman Yarden Harel said in an interview.

Newspapers editorialised against the strike. The Jerusalem Post asked how long "a small, unruly band of technicians out to impose their will on the country's principal medium of communication" would be allowed to have their way. "A reform of the country's only general television station is overdue," it said.

And the Davar newspaper, allied with Prime Minister Shimon Peres' Labour Party, said the suspended technician.

Rabin renews threat against Lebanon

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said on Monday that Israel could live with isolated rocket attacks from Lebanon, but would react sharply if these attacks began disrupting life in Israeli settlements in Galilee.

Speaking on Israel Radio, Rabin said: "I distinguish between a lone Katyusha and a situation in which Katyushas fire disrupts life. If life is disrupted we will not be able to accept this and will have to react accordingly."

Rabin's warning came amid radio reports that residents of Galilee settlements heard a Katyusha fall on Monday either into Israel's self-designated "security zone" or into Galilee.

No damage was reported and the rocket had not been located, perhaps due to the stormy weather, the radio said.

Military sources could not confirm the attack. The sources, on condition of anonymity, said at least 10 rockets have landed in Galilee since late December.

On Jan. 2, a rocket struck the centre of Kiryat Shmona, a northern Galilee settlement, damaging several cars and apartment buildings.

Following the Israeli withdrawal of most of its troops from South Lebanon last June 10, "not one civilian on the northern border has even been scratched," Orr said on Israel army radio.

Orr's interview marked the first anniversary of the Israeli cabinet's decision which led to the Jan. 14 decision to withdraw the bulk of its troops from Lebanon, ending a three-year occupation.

Sudan and China to forge closer ties

PEKING (Agencies) — China and Sudan pledged on Monday to work for closer relations in the highest level talks between the two countries since Sudan's military council took power in a coup last April, the New China News Agency (NCNA) reported.

The agency quoted General Mohammad Tawfik Khalil, a member of Sudan's transitional military council, as describing ties between the countries as "strong and profound" and thanking Peking for offering genuine assistance to Sudan.

It said Gen. Khalil and Chinese Vice-Premier Tian Jiyun agreed during an 80-minute meeting on Monday that the two countries should make new efforts to enhance their relations.

Chinese leaders were quick to congratulate the military council when it took power, although Peking had been an important donor of financial and food aid to the previous government of President Jaafar Mohammed Numeiri.

Mr. Jiyun praised Sudan's current rulers for their non-aligned foreign policy and efforts to safeguard national unity.

Chinese Foreign Ministry officials said Gen. Khalil and other members of the Sudanese delegation would have more talks with Chinese leaders over the next two days.

At a welcoming banquet on Sunday, Gen. Khalil said the Sudanese people will enjoy full freedom of choice once transitional military control ends in April.

Mr. Jiyun hosted the banquet at the Great Hall of the People for the Sudanese delegation.

Mr. Jiyun was quoted as telling the visitors that China and Sudan have long sympathised and supported each other, forging a profound friendship.

Gen. Khalil said Sudan cherishes ties with China and that the delegation came to learn about China's achievement in the economy, politics, culture and technology.

Newsweek outlines U.S. strategy against Libya

NEW YORK (AP) — President Ronald Reagan's administration has developed a six-point strategy to isolate Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi politically, militarily and economically, according to a published report.

The goal of the programme is to clear the way for a U.S. military strike should Colonel Qadhafi provide cause for attack, Newsweek reported in its Jan. 20 issue.

According to Newsweek, White House officials said the most likely outcome is that Col. Qadhafi will be goaded into an assault on Americans, giving the administration an opportunity to retaliate militarily.

Some officials are keen for a fight but fear the Libyan leader will lay low for a while, the magazine said. The strategists believe

that if they do not strike within the next six to nine months, they will miss the tide of public outrage against Libya for its purported backing of terrorism, according to the report.

These are the points that Newsweek said National Security Council official Donald Fortier put together to thwart Col. Qadhafi:

— Put Col. Qadhafi on the spot internationally by creating a consensus at home and abroad that would allow implementation of the administration plan.

— Keep pressing allies to take action against Libya. This could include interrupting military deals with France and Belgium if they continue the sales.

— Use economic sanctions outlined by the president to com-

plicate Libya's problems of selling its oil in a weak market.

— Press ahead with a four-year-old CIA programme to identify, finance and encourage Col. Qadhafi's enemies, including those in his own military.

— Curb alleged Libyan hit squads by calling on allies to be more vigilant in monitoring Libyan diplomats, agents and diplomatic pouches.

— Prepare for military action.

Libya: All free to leave

Reuters adds from London: Libya said Sunday that all foreigners, including Americans, were free to leave Libya at any time.

Quoting a statement from the Foreign Ministry, the Libyan news agency JANA, monitored in London, said Libya played host to nationals from more than 120 countries including the United States.

"They live in security and peace among the Libyan people and they enjoy complete popular and official protection and care," the statement said.

JANA said the Foreign Ministry "would like to stress that all foreign nationals in Libya, including U.S. nationals, enjoy freedom of residence and movement in Libya and can leave any time they so desire."

The 1,500 Americans working in Libya have been ordered by President Reagan to return home as part of U.S. sanctions imposed for Libya's alleged support of the guerrilla attacks at Rome and Vienna airports last month.

Only a handful of Americans are reported to have heeded the call so far.

TV & RADIO	
JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 73111-19	
MAIN CHANNEL	
16:00	Koran
16:30	Cartoons
16:50	Children Programme
17:30	Programme on Bahrain
17:50	Give Me A Brake
18:10	Programme on Islam
18:40	Kuwait Series
19:30	News Programme
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic Series
21:00	Tomorrow's Programme
21:30	Studio '86
22:00	News in Arabic
FOREIGN CHANNEL	
10:00	Thistoire secrete de petrole
10:30	News in French
10:50	Bergelot et Fils
11:00	News in Hebrew
11:30	News in Arabic
11:50	That's My Boy
12:00	A Fortunate Life
12:30	News in English
12:50	Wardner, She Write
RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 9500 KHz. SW 73111-19	
07:00	Light Music
07:30	News
08:00	Morning Show
08:30	News Summary
09:00	Morning Show Continues
10:00	Pop Session Cont.
10:30	News Summary
11:00	Pop Session Cont.
11:30	News Bulletin
11:50	Instrumentals
12:15	Country Music
12:45	Concert Hour
13:00	News Summary
13:30	News Summary
14:00	Old Favorites
14:30	Science Show
15:00	Pop Session
15:30	News Summary
16:00	News Summary
16:30	Evening Show Cont.
17:00	News Summary
17:30	Evening Show Cont.
18:00	Evening Show Cont.
18:30	Evening Show Cont.
19:00	Evening Show Cont.
19:30	Evening Show Cont.
20:00	Evening Show Cont.
20:30	Evening Show Cont.
21:00	Evening Show Cont.
21:30	Evening Show Cont.
22:00	Evening Show Cont.

WHAT'S GOING ON	
TODAY'S EVENTS	
EXHIBITIONS	
* An exhibition of old times newspapers, "Le Centre Nipponais" at the French Cultural Centre (until Jan. 16).	
* Permanent book exhibition and plastic art gallery at Day Al Jabel Publishing House, Jabel Al Hussein, opposite to the British Bank of the Middle East.	
VIDEO	
* "Les livres" at 4:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.	
FILM	
* The ABC News at 7:00 p.m. at the American Centre.	
CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre	Tel. 6610267
American Centre	644371
American Library	641520
British Council	636147-8
French Cultural Centre	637009
Goethe Institute	641993
Soviet Cultural Centre	644203
Spanish Cultural Centre	624049
Turkish Cultural Centre	639777
Haya Arts Centre	645195
Hussein Youth City	647181/86
Y.W.C.A.	641793
Y.W.M.C.A.	644251
Amman Municipal Library	637111
University of Jordan Library	643553
MUSEUMS	
Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also models from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.	
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Qal'a (Cliffed Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.	
Jordan Museum of Folklore: Contains collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists.	
PRAYER TIMES	
05:14	Fajr
06:37	(Sunrise) Dhuha
11:46	Dhuhr
14:04	'Asr
16:54	Maghrib
18:16	Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Alia International Airport at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
06:45	Agaba (RJ)
09:35	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:35	Cairo (MS)
09:35	Kuwait (RJ)
09:45	Jeddah (RJ)
09:45	Cairo (RJ)
10:00	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:00	Damascus (RJ)
10:45	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
10:45	Dhahran, Riyadh (SV)
10:45	Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
11:30	Kuwait (RJ)
11:30	Moscow (SU)
11:30	Larnaca (RJ)
11:30	Baghdad (JA)
11:30	Cairo (RJ)
11:30	New York, Vienna (RJ)
11:30	Paris, Brussels (RJ)
11:30	Athens (RJ)
11:30	Amsterdam, Istanbul (KLM)
11:30	Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
11:30	Tripoli (RJ)
11:30	Rome, Damascus (AZ)
11:30	Zurich, Larnaca (RJ)
11:30	Baghdad (JA)
11:30	Baghdad (RJ)
DEPARTURES:	
06:30	Agaba (RJ)
06:30	Beirut (MEA)
06:30	Cairo (RJ)
06:30	Tripoli (RJ)
06:30	Athens (RJ)
06:30	Geneva, London (RJ)
06:30	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
06:30	Riyadh, Dhahran (SV)
06:30	Rome, Madrid (RJ)
06:30	Istanbul, Bucharest (RJ)
06:30	Saudi Arabia (RJ)
06:30	Cairo (RJ)
06:30	Kuwait (RJ)
06:30	Moscow (SU)
06:30	Baghdad (JA)
06:30	Baghdad (RJ)
06:30	Dhahran (RJ)
06:30	Jeddah (RJ)
06:30	Cairo (RJ)
06:30	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
06:30	Amman (RJ)
06:30	Baghdad (RJ)
06:30	Baghdad (RJ)
06:30	Lisbon, Rio de Janeiro (JA)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.	
EMERGENCIES	
Amman governorate	891228
Amman civil defence	198, 199
Amman Defence Force	271293, 273131
Civil Defence Headquarters	661912
Ambulance	195, 77511

NEWS IN BRIEF

Regent condolees Kana'an family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, deputised Amman Governor Ali Al Bashir to convey his condolences to the Kana'an family on the passing away of Dr. Adli Sadeq Kana'an.

Chamber to attend Arab-Soviet trade talks

AMMAN (Petra) — The Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce will take part in the meetings of the Arab-Soviet joint chamber of commerce which will open in Damascus on Wednesday. The federation's president Hamdi Al Taha will lead the delegation to the meetings. Participants will discuss the economic and trade relations between Arab countries and the Soviet Union and the role of the Arab-Soviet joint chamber in this field. The delegation will also take part in the meetings of the Arab-Indian business council to be held in Damascus during the same period.

Ramadan cables prime minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai has received a cable of thanks from Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan in reply to a congratulatory cable which the prime minister sent on the occasion of the Iraqi Army's 65th anniversary. In his cable Mr. Ramadan wished Jordan continuing progress and expressed hope that the brotherly relations linking Jordan and Iraq would further develop and prosper.

Exports rise in 1985

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's total national exports amounted to JD 385.4 million in 1985 against JD 168.3 million in 1984, according to an official statistical bulletin issued Monday. The bulletin said that Iraq received 23.3 per cent of these exports, India 18.5 per cent, Saudi Arabia 16 per cent, Romania 4 per cent, Japan 2.4 per cent, France 1 per cent, South Korea, 1.9 per cent and Turkey 1.7 per cent of Jordan's exports.

Fariz meets Arab finance delegations

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Planning Secretary General Ziad Fariz Monday conferred with a visiting delegation from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD). During the meeting, the two sides reviewed current projects being financed by the fund and evaluated financing for the Zarqa-Ghor-Haditha road project. Dr. Fariz also held talks with a visiting delegation from the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development on the possibility of the fund contributing towards financing the Aqaba Thermal Power Station project and the Zarqa River Basin road.

Experts study agricultural insurance

IRBID (Petra) — A study on the possibility of insuring agricultural produce is currently being undertaken by a team from the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) in cooperation with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the German Corporation for Technical Assistance. The team will consult farmers about the possibility of having their crops insured against environmental causes or natural disasters and the study will also include research on average rainfall, gross agricultural product and the number of workers and family members working on cultivable land. The proposed crop insurance scheme will cover wheat, barley, chickpeas, lentils and other rain-fed crops.

RAC offers to train school bus drivers

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Automobile Club (RAC) has offered its training facilities free of charge to the Ministry of Education to train drivers of buses owned by private schools in the country. A RAC spokesman said that the offer was made following the tragic road accident involving a private school bus three months ago which resulted in the death of 14 people and the injury of other passengers. The spokesman said that the Ministry of Education will open the first course on Saturday to offer theoretical and practical training to drivers of school buses and mini-buses.

New school for UNRWA opens today

AMMAN (J.T.) — A new school to be run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) will be inaugurated at Baqa'a refugee camp today under the patronage of Sheikh Ibrahim Al Zaben and Sheikh Mohammad Al Zaben who financed the project. The JD 150,000 school comprises 17 classrooms, one administrative room, one multi-purpose room and one teachers' room and has a seating for 1,712 children on a two-shift system, according to a UNRWA press release. Another school donated by the two benefactors is being established in the same area at a cost of JD 200,000, the release said.

VTC director, envoy discuss training

AMMAN (Petra) — Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) Director General Munther Al Masri and British Ambassador in Amman Arthur John Coles Monday discussed ways of bolstering cooperation between Jordan and Britain in the field of occupational safety and health.

Saudi fund to help finance Zarqa River Basin project

AMMAN (Petra) — The Saudi Arabian Development Fund is to grant Jordan a JD 4 million loan which will be used to help finance a project for the development of the Zarqa River Basin, according to an announcement by the Ministry of Planning. The announcement said that the project, due to start by the middle of 1986, is expected to take nine years to complete at a total cost of nearly JD 40 million. The Saudi loan will be used to

Madaba industrial zone opens

MADABA (Petra) — The industrial zone in Madaba has been opened and all crafts and light industries in the city will be relocated at the new zone, according to a spokesman from Madaba municipality. The industrial zone, built at a cost of JD 750,000, contains 97 stores, public utilities and workshops which are expected to bring in an annual revenue of JD 70,000 for the municipality which built it, the spokesman said. He said that the city's new market place will be open to the public in the coming month and the municipality is expected to collect JD 15,000 annually by renting stores. He added that the cost of building the marketplace was JD 30,000. Minister of Municipal, Rural Affairs and the Environment Marwan Hmoud has endorsed a JD 897,000 budget for Madaba municipality for this year. The budget provides for building roads, a shopping centre, a community centre and for the purchase of lands for public use.



Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker receives U.S. Congressman John Miller on Monday (Petra photo)

Lawzi briefs visiting Congressman on Palestinian question, peace efforts

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi Monday stressed that the Palestine question is the crux of the Middle East conflict during his meeting with visiting U.S. Congressman John Miller.

Mr. Lawzi said that Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the Palestine question is based on firm principles, the most important of which is the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, including the Arab city of Jerusalem, and the recognition of legitimate Palestinian rights including their right to self determination.

Mr. Lawzi added that Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein, has been calling for holding an international peace conference to be attended by the United Nations Security Council's five permanent member

states and all parties involved in the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Mr. Lawzi continued that the United States as a superpower should bear its international responsibility towards the Palestine question and should play a balanced and just role in putting an end to the inhuman Israeli practices against Arab citizens in the occupied Arab territories.

The House speaker further said that the U.S. should work towards achieving a just and durable solution to the Palestine question to avoid any complications in the region which might result from what he called a state of despair and extremism.

Mr. Lawzi then reviewed the progress of democratic and parliamentary life in Jordan which he

said was halted for ten years because of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and he stressed that Jordan has been keen to preserve its democratic institutions despite the occupation circumstances.

Sharif Zaid receives Miller

Earlier Monday, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker received Mr. Miller. Attending the meeting were Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Fathi Abu Taleb, the U.S. Charge d'Affaires and U.S. military attaché in Amman.

Mr. Miller, a Republican Congressman from Seattle, Washington, is on his first visit to the Middle East. He is a former television commentator and is serving his first term in Congress. Later Monday Mr. Miller left Amman for Cairo.

National committee prepares for Fifth Jerash Festival

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Higher National Committee for the Jerash Festival held a meeting Monday to review the steps that need to be taken for the Fifth Jerash Festival, which will be held in 1986.

The committee accepted the resignation of Dr. Mazen Amrouti from the directorship of the festival, while keeping his membership on the Higher National Committee. Mr. Michael Hamaneh was appointed director general of the festival and member of the Higher National Committee as

representative of the Ministry of Information as of January 14.

The committee also decided to appoint a deputy director to the festival, and three specialised directors who will be responsible to the director general. It was also announced that the Fifth Jerash Festival would take place between July 9-18, 1986.

The committee then discussed a number of issues related to the festival's administration and the contributions of private and public organisations to the event.

Cabinet cuts costs of car phones

AMMAN (J.T.) — The cabinet has taken a decision to reduce the fees for installing telephones in private cars from nearly JD 3,000 to JD 1,000 and the annual subscription from JD 750 to JD 500, Minister of Communications Moshaidin Hussein said Monday.

The cabinet has also cancelled a JD 700 insurance fee for car phone subscribers. The minister said that the new measures will take effect immediately.

Meanwhile, Mr. Abdul Latif Subeithi, secretary general of the Islamic societies in Jordan has received a message from Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai stressing that the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) continues to exert efforts to expand, improve and modernise the national telephone network. The message was in reply to one sent by Mr. Subeithi in which he dwelt on the car telephones project.

The message also contained the prime minister's reply to Mr. Subeithi's remarks regarding the task of ministerial economic, financial and planning committees. Mr. Rifai said that these committees hold periodic meetings to discuss issues pertaining to development and to plan programmes for the future.

Mr. Subeithi expressed appreciation to the government for its plans to introduce drastic reforms in Jordanian society in a free atmosphere and in close cooperation with the private and public sectors. Mr. Subeithi also wished the government further success in its endeavours.

Budding ballerinas do well in RAD exam

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Classical ballet students enrolled at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) ballet classes have the potential and talent to form Jordan's future national ballet troupe, according to a British expert from the Royal Academy of Dancing (RAD) who recently concluded a visit to Jordan.

These ballet students are highly talented, with an outstanding standard and good flexibility which could enable them to form Jordan's future ballet group, said Ms. Irene Williamson, a teacher and examiner of RAD ballet courses.

Ms. Williamson visited Jordan to carry out RAD examinations for the RCC's 31 ballet students and the results were very good since 21 students received an honours grade, nine students were graded as highly recommended and one student as commended. Mrs. Nicole Hajjar, RCC's ballet instructor, told the Jordan Times.

Mrs. Hajjar, who has been an instructor at the centre since the RCC launched its classical ballet programmes in 1983, said she hoped that between eight and 10 of her ballet students might appear in the Fifth Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts along with the

London City Ballet. The British group performed at the Fourth Jerash Festival held last summer.

The London City Ballet, Mrs. Hajjar said, invited the RCC ballet students to watch them rehearsing and later the group's director held a workshop for the Jordanian students and was impressed by their flexibility and talent.

Jordan's cultural life, which to some extent has been limited to theatre performances and folk songs and dances, has had little experience with ballet, one of the world's oldest and most elite forms of art, she continued. But Mrs. Hajjar went on to say that public opinion towards ballet is changing. "Some of my students' parents are enthusiastic about having their children take ballet classes," Mrs. Hajjar said, and almost all my students take ballet lessons because they really want to. Mrs. Hajjar said that one of her ballet students is a seven-year old Jordanian boy who was awarded an honours grade during the recent RAD examination session in Amman.

Other students of Mrs. Hajjar have been accepted to join the British Skiney summer school which offers short-term courses in arts and ballet. The summer sch-

ool is usually very selective about the quality of ballet students it accepts, she said.

Mrs. Hajjar, a ballet devotee, has been practising the art since she was ten years old. Although her students are generally very good, Mrs. Hajjar said that the student's in general, lack discipline which she said is one of the basic pillars for any ballet class.

Mrs. Hajjar, who will be getting her ballet teachers certificate this summer, said that at present the RCC is running four different levels of classical ballet classes. These courses, which conform to RAD's dance specifications, use the academy's music and instructions for teaching classical ballet.

The RCC is presently offering pre-primary and primary ballet classes. The primary stage includes grades 1, 2, 3, and 4, following which successful students are capable of joining the main ballet grade. To date the RCC has not held any advanced ballet classes because classical ballet was only introduced at the RCC three years ago which is too short a period for any student to join the more advanced grades. The average age of Mrs. Hajjar's classical ballet students is 10. However, there are four-year old students and one 50-year old student.

CAEU condemns U.S. sanctions against Libya

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman-based Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Monday issued a statement condemning recent United States economic sanctions against Libya as an act of aggression against the Arab nation and the council urged Arab countries to take counter measures and confront this aggression.

Following are major excerpts from the CAEU statement: "The American economic measures against Arab countries and is aware that the continuous escalation of such measures is within U.S. endeavours to strengthen strategic cooperation with Israel by providing the country with unlimited support. The United States is supporting and strengthening its economic cooperation with Israel at a time when the Israeli authorities are going ahead with the implementation of their aggressive policies and with their attempts to Judaize Arab land and threaten the national existence of Arab countries. Through these actions, the U.S. is in alliance with Israel against the Arabs and is extending a helping hand to an ag-

gressive entity to enable it to carry out its aggression on the Arab nation."

The CAEU has been altered to the gravity of American financial and economic support to Israel and particularly opposed to the proposed free trade zone which will help Israel continue persecuting the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation and assist it in carrying out its expansionist policies.

The new U.S. economic measures against Libya and the American call for other countries to follow suit, coupled with U.S. threats to use force and invade Libyan territories, indicate a serious escalation in the American plans and practices against the Arab nation and are a flagrant violation of international laws and practices.

They also encroach upon the rules and principles governing relations among world states. The new measures announced by the U.S. against Libya will have negative impacts and reflections on international economic relations and the international banking and credit system.

The CAEU statement called for pan-Arab decisions to counter what it termed the aggressive policy of the U.S. and suggested the adoption of effective and decisive measures. The CAEU also called on Arab countries to endorse Arab agreements and protocols which aim to achieve economic integration, in particular the Arab economic unity agreement and the Arab Common Market protocol.

Countering these U.S. measures directed against an Arab country, which is at the same time a member of the CAEU, requires the adoption of an integrated Arab strategy in accordance with CAEU and Arab Economic and Social Council resolutions and those of the forthcoming meeting of the Arab foreign ministers, the statement said.

Seminar reviews Zionism and Israeli politics

(Continued from page 1)

In his paper, Dr. Messiri emphasised the need for a new system of classification and terminology for the study of the history of Zionism. Terms such as "anti-Semitism," "post-exile Judaism," "diaspora," and "general Zionism" etc. will have to be abandoned and replaced by more descriptive, less emotional and a relatively neutral terms, Dr. Messiri said.

The classification of a new system of terminologies could be achieved through placing all data related to Zionism and Judaism in a well-founded historical context, thereby restoring to them a historical and human dimension, he said.

"A concrete historical context is completely absent at the present as a result of heavy Biblical colouring which elevates or reduces the members of Jewish minorities to the level of the sacred and, therefore, non-human," he said.

Dr. Messiri proposed that an outline of the history of Zionism should be seen within the context of general human history rather than within the "narrow frame of hypothetical Jewish history."

The researcher, professor and author of a number of English books which include "The Land of Promise: A Critique of Political Zionism" concluded that the U.S. has been and remains the "imperial force behind Zionism."

Dr. Sharif, who has served as senior researcher at the Institute for Palestine Studies in Beirut, presented a critical examination of Zionism as a "uniquely Western ideology and philosophical idea which originated in Western Europe during the 16th Century and which has become part and parcel of the so-called Judeo-Christian tradition."

"Today's special relationship between Israel and the United States is basically a product of the Judeo-Christian tradition," Dr. Sharif's paper said.

Dr. Sharif, who also contributes to the Journal of Palestine Studies, argued that "ideology, affinity and interests" are the basic elements which bind the U.S. and Israel together.

Dr. Sharif concluded that the U.S. actions vis-a-vis Israel are only supporting "the Jewish state in Palestine," a religious theory, and an idea which was formulated six years ahead of the first conference on Zionism in Basel.

The second panel discussion on Monday was on the Israeli government system. It chaired by the dean of scientific research at the University of Jordan, Adnan Al Bakhit. Three papers were submitted for discussion.

Mr. Sabri Jirjis, a senior researcher at the Palestine Research Centre now based in Nicosia, Cyprus, presented a paper on "System of Government and Political Parties in Israel," pointing that these two systems are inseparable and are deeply committed to support each other.

"Israel's political parties and the government system are the faces of the same coin," Mr. Jirjis said. This strong relation is based on historical roots although Israel's parties only emerged 70 years ago, he said.

Israel, which has between nine to 15 political parties, lacks consistency in its ruling party and therefore its political policy is also subject to dramatic shifts because of the different ideologies that govern each party and the nature of the political system, Mr. Jirjis said.

All the 11 Israeli governments which came to power since 1948 have been formed on a coalition basis, and out of the 11 governments only three were elected

on time, he said.

The three major political parties — the Likud bloc, the Labour Party, and the Kahane movement — were all established outside Palestine and were transferred into Palestine during the British mandate of Palestine, Mr. Jirjis said.

The second working paper — "Reading in Israeli Legislation" was presented by Dr. Anis Al Kassim, a lawyer who works for the Kuwait-based Al Saleh, Graham and James legal consultants.

Dr. Kassim described Israeli legislation as "legal tricks which are practised by the Zionist legislator" and said that in cases where the issue is subject to Zionist claims to land "the roots of racial discrimination, which are inseparable from Zionist legislation, are practised against non-Jews."

Israel's regional expansion plans do not consider political declarations but take legal forms which are improvised by Israel in accordance with its aims, Dr. Kassim's paper said.

Dr. Kassim referred to 13 laws which he said were introduced by the "Zionist legislature" since 1919. These laws legalised Israel's expansion policy and the immigration of Jews into Israel as well as the violation of human rights, he said. All of these basic laws have proved "Israel's racism and that its racism is an inseparable part of its existence," he said.

The last speaker in Monday's second panel was Dr. Assad Abdul Rahman, director general of the Shoman Foundation, who submitted a paper on "Political Trends in Israel." The central point of the paper was that chances for peace between the Arabs and Israel are "non-existent" because of political factors that shape Israel's policy.

These factors, Dr. Abdul Rahman said, were, the lack of any peace initiatives by the current Israeli coalition government, the impotency of political parties inside the coalition government to solve its internal problems and political indications inside Israel that the Jewish state was moving from right to extreme right.

Dr. Abdul Rahman questioned whether Israel was willing to solve the Palestine problem. The Israeli political generation does not know whether it wants a "peaceful settlement" or a "comprehensive peaceful solution" to the Arab-Israeli conflict, he said.

A recent public poll conducted in Israel proved that 67 per cent of the Israeli population support expelling all Arabs from the occupied territories, Dr. Abdul Rahman said. He also predicted that Israel's future political generation will be followers of the extremist Kahane movement.

Dr. Abdul Rahman added that the failure of Arab states to solve inter-Arab disputes and take a firm stand on the Palestinian issue and the increasing U.S. economic, financial and military aid to Israel are other reasons that make chances for Arab-Israeli peace non-existent at the present.

During Monday's evening session, chaired by Mrs. Laila Sharaf, three eminent researchers presented studies on the Arabs in the writings of Israeli intellectuals, the role of education in Zionist ideology and Jewish emigration from Israel. The presentations were followed by open discussions after which the audience agreed that combating Israeli policies and actions should be at the grass roots level rather than on the decision making level.

In his working paper on the Arabs in the writings of Israeli intellectuals, Dr. Shoukri Abed, a

professor at Yarmouk University, categorised the perspective of Western orientalists into two schools of thought: before (the creation of Israel) in 1948 and the period after the proclamation of Israel.

Orientalists from the first period generally had a Western education and held European views, especially those who originated from Germany, whereas orientalists' writings after 1948 emanated from the Jewish perspective and education, said Dr. Abed.

Dr. Abed sees a dramatic difference between the two periods and he noted that writings before 1948 viewed the Arabs as normal people and did not attempt to defame their heritage. The phase of orientalists between 1948 and 1967, however, treated the Palestinians as a minority in the Arab World living as refugees and writers termed the dispute as an Arab-Israeli conflict and not a Palestinian-Israeli conflict, thus neglecting the existence of Palestinians as people, explained Dr. Abed, who has published a number of researches on the Israeli-Palestinian equation.

After the 1967 war, attention focused on the Palestinians and for the first time since 1948 the conflict, in the eyes of the Israelis, became a Palestinian-Israeli issue.

According to Dr. Abed, writings within Israel in the latter stage termed Arab communities as egoists and fatalists and contained a series of violent political comments. He said that the writings also portrayed the Arabs as arch foes of the Jews and termed them as anti-Semitic. Dr. Abed, however, contends that the Jewish community in the Arab World had and still has equal rights on the same footing as the rest of the public. He went on to say that Arab Jews are living in better conditions than those of European Jews in the past.

Dr. Ali Othman presented a working paper on "the role of education in Zionist ideology" and he blamed decision makers in the Arab World for their shortsightedness and negligence regarding the basic needs of Arab communities which, he said, affects the Palestinian question.

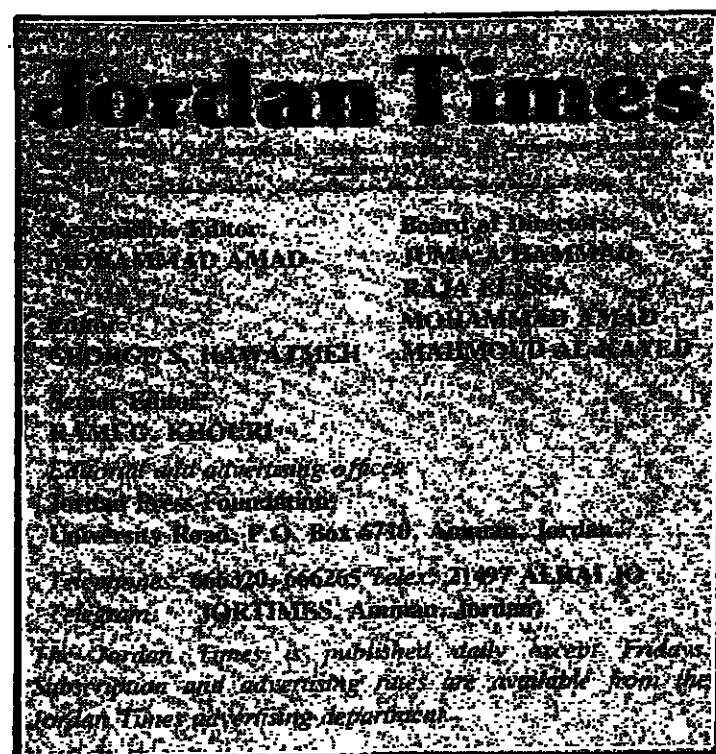
The Israeli ideology in education manipulates the new generation in favour of the "group" and the state instead of loyalty to parents. Israelis have been using this method of upbringing since the creation of Israel by taking children from their parents to live separately with others of their age where they are indoctrinated with Jewish beliefs and ideology.

The Arab communities, on the other hand, do not have the perspective "one for all and all for one" as children stay with their parents where they decide the way they want to live, he continued.

The three-day conference was opened on Sunday with a keynote address by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent. Participants in Sunday's session included Paul McCloskey, former U.S. congressman.

Other speakers were former Senator James Abourezk, South African Denis Brutus, who currently is visiting professor at Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania, and the Arab League's permanent ambassador to the U.N., Dr. Clovis Maksoud.

Mr. Abourezk, the first-ever Arab-American to become a senator, said it was very "important for the Arabs to understand how the American minds work."



'Compromise' named Taba

THE compromise over Taba that was worked out by Israel's inner cabinet on Sunday and early yesterday appears to be more of a formula devised to avert collapse of the "national unity" government than a serious effort to make real and just peace with Egypt and the rest of the Arab World. So many conditions and demands did the Israelis attach to their acceptance "in principle" of binding arbitration on Taba, that it is difficult to imagine how the Egyptian side could possibly lead their agreement to this Israeli formula.

But such is the nature of Israeli politicians, and the Egyptian government might, by now, have got used to their tactics. The lesson, however, is for the rest of us Arabs to learn and to enforce what we already think about the Israelis and their political manoeuvres.

A strip of land — whose area is no more than a thousand dunams — that rightfully, we claim, belongs to Egypt is presently occupied and utilised by the Israelis. They will not give it back unless international arbiters have decided it is Egyptian, and only after these jurists have proceeded by means of conciliation to resolve the dispute and after Egypt has agreed to return its ambassador to Tel Aviv and approved a timetable to implement agreements in the areas of commerce, tourism, transportation, civil aviation, culture and political dialogue. Egypt, moreover, will have to submit to Israel a report on the murder of Israeli tourists at Ras Bourqa by the now-late Egyptian policeman Suleiman Khater and settle the question of reparations to the bereaved families. And if this is not enough, Israel is also demanding that Cairo stop media attacks against it and prevent PLO presence and activity in Egypt before Israel will proceed with the arbitration process within the "basket deal."

Just a thousand dunams which rightfully belong to Egypt, and Israel is laying all these conditions and more in order to agree on an arbitration process for their return. Imagine what Israeli conditions will be like if we were talking about the restoration of the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan Heights to Arab sovereignty! Well, at least, Sharon and Shamir do not lay a Biblical claim to Taba. To the West Bank they do and insist upon it.

So much for Israeli offers of peace negotiations without any preconditions, and for American pressures on us Arabs to believe in the wonder of Negotiation Dynamics. Shimon Peres may want to call his compromise with the Likudniks over Taba a "victory." We would rather have none of it.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Arab food security

THE Arab ministers of agriculture, who are currently holding a meeting in Algiers, have underlined a number of facts about the Arab World that indeed call for astonishment. The ministers said that the Arab World is suffering from serious food shortages requiring Arab states to import \$20 billion worth of food stuff annually. The ministers also pointed out that most of the lands throughout the Arab countries are cultivable but that the Arabs fail to exploit them to grow more food for their increasing populations. According to the ministers, Arab reliance on traditional farm implements and poor investments in agriculture and lack of proper attention to the rural regions have contributed to this pitiful condition. The Arabs have no excuse for not being able to produce more food since they own vast financial resources, they have the land and the water resources in addition to the expertise, which can help produce abundant crops for their peoples. Production of food has become essential in our present time because other countries have been using food as an economic and political weapon with which they try to impose their will on other nations. What the Arabs need is to mobilise their efforts for the production of food lest they fall victim to hunger or face the prospect of falling under foreign domination.

Al Dustour: Defending Palestine

IN his speech addressed to a seminar on Israel and Israeli-American relations, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan spoke of Zionist infiltration into Palestine since the turn of the century, and the glorious struggle by the Arabs to stem Zionist invasion of their lands. In referring to Zionist plans in Palestine and the current Israeli settlement programmes in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Prince Hassan voiced again Jordan's total support for the Palestinian people's rights in their homeland and their right to self-determination. He said Jordan, in line with the principles of the Great Arab Revolt, has been working relentlessly towards stemming Zionist danger in Palestine and providing support and assistance to the Arab people of Palestine under Israeli rule. On the Arab level, the Crown Prince said that Jordan has been always for unifying Arab ranks and mobilising their resources and strength with the purpose of preserving Arab identity and enhancing Arab steadfastness. This seminar is of great importance because it helps to expose Israeli intentions and designs, and focuses the light on Zionist programmes in our Arab territory.

Sawt Al Shaab: Israel-U.S., vs. Arabs

THE current seminar held in Amman on Israel and Israeli-American relations focuses attention on a number of important facts and exposes the designs of the Zionist state in the Arab region. In addition the seminar helps people to understand better the nature of the U.S.-Israeli relationship and have a better idea of the great tragedy that had befallen the Palestinian people mainly due to Washington's continued backing to Israeli aggressive policies in the region. The Zionist entity could not have uprooted the Palestinian people nor could it have pursued attempts to obliterate Arab history and religion had it not been for the continued U.S. military and economic help to Israel. In fact Israel could never have launched aggression on the Arabs had it not been backed in its actions by the United States. Many facts emerge from the deliberations of the participants in the seminar about this relationship which has now assumed a new form with the establishment of the U.S.-Israeli free trade zone that came to prove that the two sides in reality form one entity, striving to achieve the same goals and ambitions in our region. Our attention should now focus on striking at American interests in the Arab World so as to make the Americans understand that they have to adopt a more balanced attitude in their dealings with the Arab-Israeli conflict.

'U.S. responsible for Middle East impasse'

By Salameh B. Ne'matt

AMMAN — The Middle East peace process has reached an impasse which cannot be broken without the convening of an international peace conference with proper Palestinian participation, a former U.S. official said recently. He blamed the U.S. government for the impasse.

"We will not get anywhere if we do not adequately involve Palestinians in an international conference," said Robert Pranger, who served as a senior defence official during former U.S. President Richard Nixon's administration.

In an interview last weekend with the Jordan Times, Mr. Pranger said that both prerequisites for moving the peace process were included in King Hussein's peace initiative. He criticised the United States for "not supporting the initiative and worrying about Palestinian representation."

"The U.S. carries the responsibility of moving things," Mr. Pranger said. "The U.S. is technically considering the aspects of Palestinian representation," he said. "The whole thing is really in U.S. hands and that explains the stalemate. There is no urgency in Washington to do anything about it."

Commenting on the U.S. delaying of pressure on Jordan by delaying the proposed arms shipment to the Kingdom, Mr. Pranger said "there is no way to force a country against its national interests. The arms pressure will fail."

Assessing the current situation in the region, Mr. Pranger said that the U.S. "has to struggle with the issue of the international conference and Palestinian representation." He said the U.S. administration sees "no problem"

in Palestinian representation "but with the PLO."

Expressing doubts that the present Israeli government was capable of taking steps to move the peace process, Mr. Pranger said: "It's not clear whether (Israeli Prime Minister Shimon) Peres is capable of coming out with a solid coalition without Likud. There is a possibility Peres would back away" from the peace process.

Mr. Pranger added that "the PLO issue is not yet closed. Everything is open for amendment and change." He did not elaborate.

Despite the current stalemate, Mr. Pranger said, "one can see a deal developing which would involve the parties mentioned in Camp David (Israel, Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinians)." He said the United States should play a stronger role if there is going to be any movement.

"This (U.S.) administration is only interested in the containment of the Soviet threat," Mr. Pranger said. "It had a bad experience in Lebanon which made it not that anxious in getting itself overly committed and kept it waiting for the right activity in the region," he said. "The current inaction (by the U.S.) is wrong because there is activity," he added.

Mr. Pranger said that there is pressure from the Likud side in the Israeli government on the U.S. administration not to be involved in Jordan's peace initiative. "The harder line Israeli connections in Washington are not in favour of any movement," he said.

Mr. Pranger described the King's visit to Damascus last month as "a very important development which could lead to a Syrian and Soviet involvement

and support for the peace process within an international conference."

Mr. Pranger underlined the possibility of a U.S.-Soviet agreement on the Middle East during the forthcoming Reagan-Gorbachev summit. "We may be close to some deal," he said.

Mr. Pranger holds the position of vice president for External Affairs and Director of International Programmes at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), a leading think tank in Washington which is very active on the Middle East.

The AEI is known to be very evenhanded in its approach to the Middle East problem, but pro-Israeli activists in Washington traditionally have viewed it as pro-Arab, despite the fact that the institute includes pro-Israeli voices like Ben Wattenberg, Irving Kristol, Michael Novak and Jeanne Kirkpatrick.

Studies by Mr. Pranger and Dale Tahtinen at AEI were regarded by Israeli officials and their Washington supporters as pro-Arab, while Arab officials considered them pro-Israeli. Two scholars associated with AEI, Richard Scammon and Howard Pessinman, both experts on elections, were asked by former special Middle East ambassador Robert Strauss to draft some guidelines on holding elections for the proposed Palestinian "self-governing" authority on the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Mr. Pranger took part in the second Arab-American Dialogue which concluded its meetings last week. He presented a paper on the dimensions of U.S. foreign policy in the region in which he explored the three dimensions of that policy

which relate more to actual U.S. involvement, interests and view of the world. He spoke of the international, regional and domestic dimensions of his country's Middle East policy.

"Given the three dimensions of America's Middle East policy, and the three different views of ideology and power associated with these dimensions, it is possible to appreciate the extraordinary complexity of this policy," he said.

"It is also clear that the policy is often so complex that it is difficult to manage, and the complexity makes it difficult to adjust the differences among its three dimensions... thus the most sensible American policy path in the Middle East is peace-making," Dr. Pranger concluded.

Dr. Assad Abdul Rahman, director general of the Shoman Foundation, who was the commentator on Dr. Pranger's paper, praised it saying that it has "paved the ground for serious and analytical debate on the American policy in the Middle East." Dr. Abdul Rahman said Dr. Pranger presented "a concise exposure of the European legacy in the Middle East." However, he said the paper included a tendency to oversimplification.

He agreed with Dr. Pranger that American policy in the Middle East has been "inconsistent and schizophrenic."

He also agreed that the U.S. has found itself in a policy not of its own making in the Middle East but warned that such an argument could be used to "justify American bias in favour of Israel."

Dr. Abdul Rahman agreed with Dr. Pranger that the Arab-Israeli conflict was a European legacy but argued that "the U.S. has played a role in crystallising this legacy."

American policy in the area has indicated that "the U.S. has chosen to put limits on its role in the Middle East," he said.

Dr. Abdul Rahman criticised Dr. Pranger's emphasis on "rejection by most Arabs of the right of Israel to exist as a factor which limit the evolution of American policy in the Middle East."

He noted that the majority of the Arab states and the mainstream Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) factions have been trying hard to endorse policies which reflect moderation and which advocate a two-state solution. He said this moderation has been reflected in consecutive Arab resolutions and in the political line that has been pursued by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat "and which has cost him dearly in the Palestinian movement."

He said that Dr. Pranger should not have stressed Arab rejection of Israel's right to exist while ignoring the moderation of the majority of the Arab countries and the almost parallel Israeli extremism and rejection of Arab rights. He also disagreed with Dr. Pranger's argument that "American (peace) initiatives have been sabotaged by the Arabs and the Israelis."

He said the actual and official Arab reaction cannot be equated with the Israeli reaction to American peace initiatives. "Arabs are convinced that the U.S. can play an effective role in finding a final settlement," he said. "Arabs have been begging the U.S. to introduce a new initiative."

He said the Arab governments have taken many steps to encourage an American role in solving the Arab-Israeli conflict and cited as an example the Feb. 11

accord between Jordan and the PLO.

Dr. Abdul Rahman argued that Arab moderation has been weakened by passive American response and Israeli's continuous aggressive policies and intransigence.

He described American policy in the Middle East as "equivocal" and said such policy "has encouraged the Israeli intransigence."

Dr. Abdul Rahman also disputed another argument by Dr. Pranger in which he maintained that recent years has witnessed "a triumph of sectarian fragmentation over cosmopolitan trends."

He said that despite the sectarian conflict in Lebanon, the trend "is temporary" and that Dr. Pranger "has made a sweeping generalisation."

"The drive towards sectarianism has lost its momentum," he said.

In Dr. Abdul Rahman's view, the sectarian currents in the area have "exposed their dangerous implications and that progressive forces are now aware of these dangers and are ready to confront them."

Dr. Abdul Rahman's comments were followed by a discussion of Dr. Pranger's paper and American policy in the Middle East in general. Most speakers expressed appreciation of Dr. Pranger's paper and praised its depth and objectivity. The speakers' observations on American policy in the Middle East, however, were very critical and most of the time reflected a deep disappointment over the strong and total U.S. support of Israel.

The writer is on the staff of the Jordan Times.

Gemayel and Assad hold talks

(Continued from page 1)

"premeditated attack" on the party's central headquarters in east Beirut and other centres in an attempt to sabotage Mr. Gemayel's summit with Mr. Assad.

The statement ordered all Falangist fighters to "report to their positions and barracks at once."

The Falange radio station, situated in mountains above Beirut, fell silent shortly after noon. It was not immediately clear whether it had been overrun during the clashes.

All radio stations broadcast appeals to civilians to stay indoors throughout the Meta mountain resorts and east Beirut's residential neighbourhoods of Sin Al Fil, Doura, Dikwaneh, Jisr Al Basha and Jisr Al Wati.

Mr. Hobeika said in a statement issued from his heavily fortified "war council" headquarters in

east Beirut's Ashrafieh district that he ordered his 6,000-strong militia to crack down on Mr. Gemayel's supporters.

Mr. Hobeika did not mention Mr. Gemayel by name but referred to him as the "palace tenant, whose mercenaries have committed a string of kidnap and house-burning attacks against the 'Lebanese Forces' in the last two weeks."

"Therefore, I had to take the difficult, the bitter, the inescapable decision to correct the state of affairs, to ensure the security and freedom of movement for the citizens and to defend the dignity of the Lebanese Forces," Mr. Hobeika said.

The Falangist Voice of Dignity radio in the mountain resort town of Bruumana said Mr. Hobeika's militiamen were to blame for the current flare-up.

The radio accused Mr. Hobeika of splintering Christian ranks.

Baz sees accord as positive

(Continued from page 1)

Yitzhak Shamir. Israel Radio quoted unnamed sources in Peres' office as saying the cabinet decision paved the way for a summit, possibly within a month. Asked about the possibility of a summit, Peres told reporters: "We are closer today to it than we were last night."

The Likud, which has veto powers in the inner cabinet, held up the agreement for months, demanding direct negotiations or conciliation before arbitration.

The cabinet decision was a face-saving compromise calling for negotiations in the initial stages to seek middle ground with Egypt, perhaps joint control over Taba.

A 14-point cabinet statement said Israel's agreement to arbitration was conditional on an end to anti-Israeli "propaganda" in the official Egyptian media.

Avraham Tamir, director-general of the prime minister's office and David Kimche, foreign ministry director-general, were to leave soon for Cairo, to present the cabinet's decision to the Egyptian government and begin work on defining the terms of reference for the arbitration, radios said.

Cabinet sources said the cabinet session was repeatedly disrupted by angry exchanges and shouting. Yet one point Ariel Sharon, Likud's industry and trade minister, stormed out of the meeting slamming the door behind him.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, quoted Peres cabinet minister Ezer Weizman as accusing Sharon of trying to "wreck the peace process."

The following is the official text of the Israeli government's conditional agreement to submit the Taba dispute to arbitration:

1. The Taba issue and other disputed points along the international border between Israel and Egypt will be resolved by means of an arbitration process.
2. During the initial stages of the process according to Paragraph 1 (about eight months), the arbiters will proceed by means of conciliation to resolve the Taba issue (solution by other means).
3. Egypt will return its resident

ambassador to Israel.

4. A timetable for the implementation of the agreements signed between Israel and Egypt in the areas of commerce, tourism, transportation, civilian aviation, culture and political dialogue will be agreed upon.

5. An arbitration compromise will be agreed upon, allowing the parties to present their arguments in full and to present their evidence on disputed issues, authorising the arbiters to decide on these issues.

6. The complete and exact text of the arbitration compromise, including the identity and number of arbiters and the duration of the arbitration between Israel and Egypt will be decided upon.

7. Arrangements to take effect in Taba following the conclusion of the arbitration process will be agreed upon. These arrangements will include free access, security arrangements and arrangements regarding existing facilities.

8. Egypt will submit to Israel the report on the murder at Ras Bourqa, and the question of reparations to the bereaved families will be discussed.

9. The return of the Egyptian ambassador, the signing of the arbitration compromise and the process of normalisation will commence simultaneously.

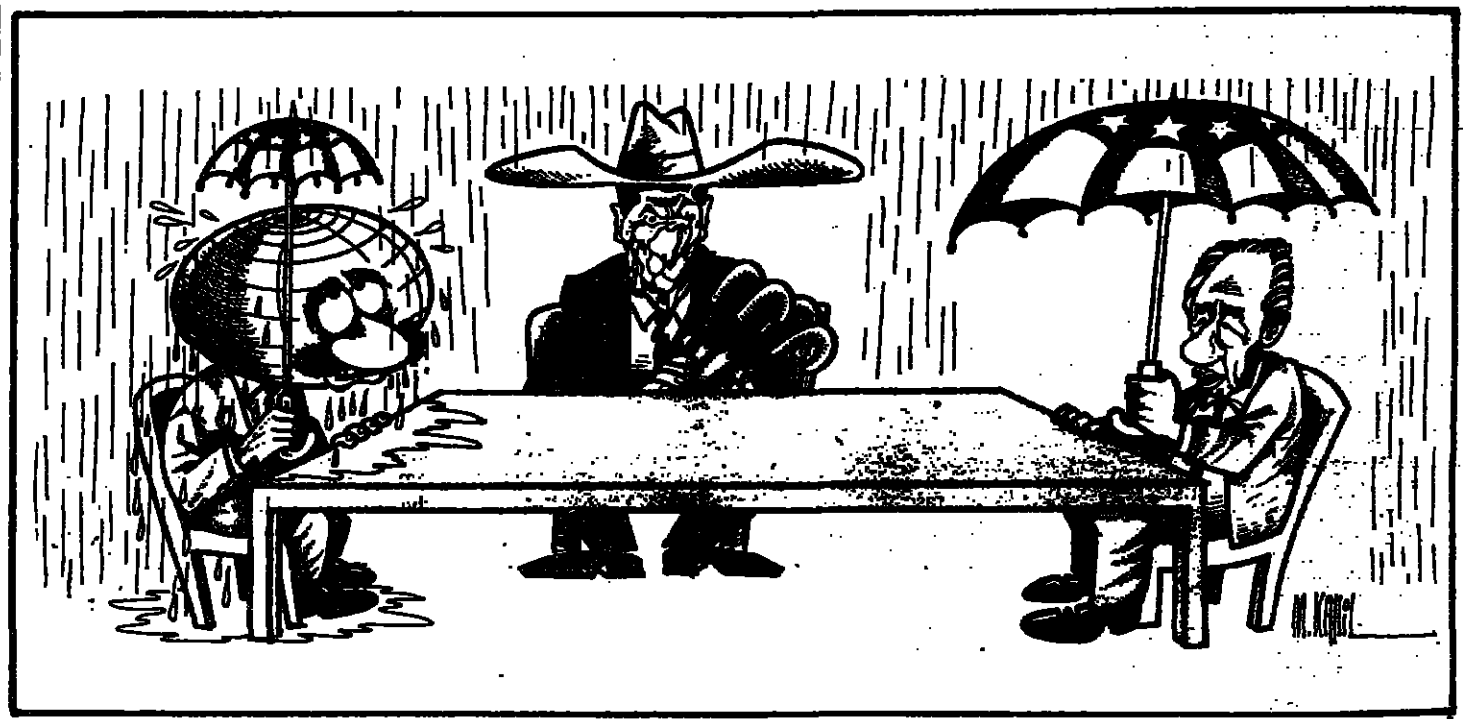
10. The commitment on the "basket deal" (improvement of relations and the arbitration process) constitutes a single entity. The implementation of each part of this commitment is connected to the implementation of the whole.

11. The introduction to the agreement will include a reference to the desire of the parties to remain faithful to the peace treaty and to the Camp David agreements relevant to both countries.

12. The two states will fulfil Paragraph 3 of the peace treaty, and will prevent terrorist presence or activity from each country against the other, and against its citizens.

13. The parties will work to prevent hostile propaganda against one another, and will allow free and equal access to their communications media.

14. The issues from Paragraph 3 above on, including the text of the arbitration compromise.



U.S. allies ignore Reagan's call for sanctions against Libya

By Barry Schweid
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Ronald Reagan and Libyan leader Moammar Qadhafi are poised for a showdown that could test the strength of the U.S. alliance with Western Europe.

Reagan has vowed to punish the Libyan leader for the Dec. 27 attacks at the Rome and Vienna airports by gunning the State Department says were supported by Qadhafi.

But the president is getting little support from his allies, none from the Muslim world. The Libyan leader has responded with a threat to try to force the U.S. military out of its bases in Europe and drive the U.S. fleet from the Mediterranean.

Qadhafi also reiterated his threat to use suicide squads to take the war home to America if he is attacked militarily. He criticised Reagan as a "weak man" who had

"created many crises in the world."

Reagan, who took office promising "swift and effective retribution" against acts of terrorism, so far has taken only economic action against Libya by stepping up sanctions first imposed in 1981.

The president ordered an end by Feb. 1 to virtually all U.S. economic activity with Libya, froze the north African country's property and bank assets, and warned the 1,000 to 1,500 U.S. citizens who work in Libya to return home or risk prosecution.

His appeal to U.S. allies to join in the sanctions was virtually ignored.

In an interview with a group of European journalists on Dec. 10, Friday, Reagan said "there is a moral issue involved here" and "this is what I'm hoping that our friends and allies will consider."

"Can we place trade, everyday relationships, ahead in value of the immorality that is inherent in

people who will come in, as they did — into an airport and just simply shoot human beings that were there — men, women, children — with no regard to what participation those people have in anything that's going on?"

"I'm hopeful that our allies might see that sanctions can be successful if enough of us do it," Reagan said.

But faced with almost universal refusal, Secretary of State George Shultz acknowledged at a news conference on Dec. 9, "By this time we're pretty much at the end of the road. All of the things that one can think of economically have pretty much been done now."

That clearly leaves military actions as an option. Shultz, the most outspoken among administration leaders in pushing what he has called an "active defense against terrorism," did not shy away from the prospect.

"We prepared to use the mea-

sures that will be effective as necessary," Shultz said. "Force is not always the best means, but it may be necessary on occasion."

In the meantime, though, he is sending his deputy, John Whitehead, to European capitals in mid-week to see if the former New York investment banker can rally support for the United States.

One of his probable stops is Italy, which felt the sting of terrorism in the mayhem at the Rome airport but also is Libya's biggest trading partner.

In what could be a break in European resistance, the Italians on Dec. 10 suspended shipment of weapons to Libya and decided to re-examine trade and other business arrangements in light of U.S. allegations linking Tripoli to terrorism.

If the allies and Japan support the U.S. anti-Libya campaign, the economic approach may be extended, Shultz hasn't given up hope of help.

Official papers reveal U.K. planned invasion of Israel

By Michael Cousins

LONDON — Official papers released here on Jan. 1, reveal that Britain prepared plans to invade Israel in 1955. This hitherto unknown news came to light under a government rule, whereby state papers are kept secret for 30 years before being disclosed to the public.

Although it was only a year before Britain joined forces with the Israelis and the French in invading Egypt, British military planners in 1955 were so worried about the threat to Jordan that they drew up detailed plans for the bombing of Tel Aviv, Haifa and the Israeli-occupied Jerusalem, naval blockade of the Israeli coast and the capture of its strongholds by British Royal Marine commandos, who were to move in from Iraq and Jordan.

It was accepted that there would be casualties. There would be "some damage to civilian property and loss of civilian life may be occasioned in your attacks," a note from the Ministry of Defense to British Middle East headquarters declared, adding that "invulnerability of any religious places must be strictly preserved."

The intention does not seem to have been to dismember Israel, so much as to neutralise its power. British military thinking at the time was that Israel was about to invade Jordan, and that as Britain's ally, Jordan would have to be defended. There was a firm view in London that Jordan's Arab Legion would not be strong enough to stand up to the Israelis. There was considerable concern that if Britain did not stand by Jordan, its other allies in the region, Turkey, Iran and Iraq, would turn their backs on their own treaty obligations to Britain.

Anticipating an invasion of Jordan, the British suspected the Israelis of planning to invade Egypt as well. The then Prime Minister Anthony Eden was sure that this was going to happen in 1955. Pol-

icy toward the region was, however, tortuous and complex. By the end of the year, the British had changed sides, and far from planning to invade Israel, had thrown their lot in with Israelis, drawing up plans for the Suez invasion. But it was see-saw politics all the way.

The cabinet papers show that Britain, and particularly the later Prime Minister Harold Macmillan (who in 1955 was minister of defence and later foreign secretary), was not doing enough for its image in the Arab world. As late as autumn 1955, Macmillan was urging "moderation with Egypt" and that Britain should "concentrate on helping other Arab states" which had remained friendly.

However, by then concern about oil interests had become the major consideration. The 1955 papers show that the British cabinet had come to regard President Nasser as a threat to British oil interests in the Middle East. His decision to buy arms from Czechoslovakia was taken as a sign that Egypt was moving into Moscow's sphere of influence. The belief that Moscow was intent on opening up a new Cold War front in the Middle East was strongly held by the British throughout the year, and Nasser's decision to buy from Czechoslovakia served to convince Eden that he should be dealt with.

In October 1955, Eden was writing to the British Ambassador in Cairo that "Russia has put us on notice that she intends to open a third front in the Cold War, this time in the Middle East. In the face of this threat we intend to defend our interests as energetically as we have done in Europe and the Far East."

The papers also reveal that the British government was even contemplating the establishment of a new British military base in Lebanon to replace Suez from which they were withdrawing — Arab News.

Spectre of terrorism hurts Egyptian tourism

Recent Middle East hijackings have caused a big slump in Egyptian tourism just when the country was counting on higher receipts to offset losses from other sources. Tony Walker talked to the new Tourism Minister.

CAIRO — Egypt's new Tourism Minister, Dr. Fouad Sultan, has a job few would envy. The bloody make-to-the hijacking of the Egyptian Air Boeing in Malta has contributed to an alarming fall in Egypt's tourist trade at a time when it is ill-afforded it.

Dr. Sultan was scheduled to go to America before Christmas on a selling mission, but has delayed his visit until the dust settles on the extremely unfavourable publicity that resulted from the deaths of more than 50 people when Egyptian commandos stormed the stricken airliner on the tarmac.

Dr. Sultan, who has been in the Ministry of Tourism since the hijacking, has been busy cancelling flights to America, a major market for Egypt's tourism industry, and has been busy cancelling flights to America, a major market for Egypt's tourism industry, and has been busy cancelling flights to America, a major market for Egypt's tourism industry.

Dr. Sultan, who points out that Egypt has about 10 per cent of the world's prime historical and recreational sites and yet manages to attract less than 0.5 per cent of international tourist business, says he is determined to press on with an ambitious programme to improve his country's image as a holiday destination and to encourage new investment in tourism projects.

A former investment banker, Dr. Sultan is making it easier for charter flights from Europe and elsewhere to go direct to touristic sites such as Luxor in Upper Egypt, bypassing Cairo. The only conditions, he says, are that Egypt Air must be offered the right of first refusal on 50 per cent of the traffic and that the charter flights are consistent with bilateral air traffic agreements.

Dr. Sultan is also seeking to "liberalise" EgyptAir, as he puts it, to force it to operate more as a private sector company. Egypt's national airline is widely criticised for indifferent service and general lack of efficiency.

"My aim," said Dr. Sultan, "is to give autonomy to the board of directors of EgyptAir so they can manage according to private sector principles."

Under existing arrangements, the heads of EgyptAir departments also sit on the board, so there is effectively no independent oversight of the company's activities.

The new tourism minister wants a restructured board to establish fresh priorities for EgyptAir and to operate with relative freedom from government intervention and decisions about capital expenditure, acquisition of new aircraft, and other ventures allied with operations of an airline.

Dr. Sultan has similar plans for the Egypt Hotels Company, which manages some of the country's

grand historic hotels such as the Winter Palace at Luxor and Shephard's on the Nile in Cairo.

Dr. Sultan, who has given himself "100 days" to gauge prospects in the tourism sector, believes there is much scope for improvement in quality of service and business volume. He said that once occupancy rates increased, the private sector would be "extremely dynamic" in committing new investment to tourism. He said one of his priorities is to facilitate new projects.

One of the main barriers to investors is the difficulty in securing land at a reasonable price. Extremely cumbersome approval procedures have killed off many



schemes, and companies have had their plans delayed for years because of disputes between various government authorities over land sale approvals.

Dr. Sultan has won Cabinet approval for a new system of planning approvals under which the Ministry of Tourism will have the final say on land acquisition for suitable projects.

Much of existing foreign investment in the tourism sector is Arab, but Dr. Sultan is keen to see an increase in European and American participation. He estimates that 60 per cent of investment is local, 25 per cent from other Arab countries and 15 per cent from elsewhere.

Dr. Sultan believes that with reasonable luck he can achieve a 20 per cent growth in tourism revenues. "Taking into consideration the under-utilisation of hotel space you can easily achieve a substantial growth rate," he says. "If you started with fully utilised capacity it would be much more difficult." — Financial Times news feature.

UAE farmers prosper in the desert despite water problems

By Philip Shehadi
Reuters

AL AIN, United Arab Emirates — "We have everything a farmer could want, good soil, guaranteed markets. The only problem is water."

Saeed Bin Saeed, who grows vegetables outside this oasis town near the Omani border, pointed to a well next to a cabbage patch.

"That used to be enough for all five hectares," he said. "Now I've got 12 wells, and they still aren't enough."

A bold agricultural scheme has turned much of the arid sand around Al Ain into lush fruit and vegetable farms. Farmers are prospering in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) desert thanks to generous state subsidies, but water is running short.

Depletion of underground aquifers fed by the nearby Al Hajar mountains and a three-year dry spell have sunk water tables, increased salinity and cut back yields.

Al Ain, boyhood home of President Sheikh Zaid Bin Sultan Al Nahayan and the focus of the country's agricultural ambitions, accounts for one third of total cultivated land of about 32,000 hectares or 0.4 per cent of the UAE's area.

Cultivated land has doubled in the past eight years, and the UAE now produces 50 per cent of its food needs. "The goal of the president is that every citizen owns a farm," one official said.

Juma Saeed Hareb, assistant undersecretary for agricultural affairs, said there were 2,500 private farms in Al Ain. In the early 1970s, when oil revenues were just beginning to penetrate the UAE interior, there were only 48 farms in the region.

A major oil producer with a population of 1.2 million, two thirds of them foreigners, and one of the world's highest per capita incomes, the UAE began developing agriculture as a means of spreading oil wealth, settling nomad bedouins and cutting dependence on food imports.

Fenced-in land is free, along with wells, pump, insecticides and one labourer's salary for two years. The farm owner, who is as likely to be a government official as a newly settled bedouin, pays half the cost of fertiliser, irrigation equipment and additional pumps.

The government buys back produce at prevailing retail prices "if there is any surplus, the government pays, not the citizen," Hareb said.

Rarely does an Al Ain farm owner live on his farm. Most, like Saeed, visit several times a week and employ Pakistani, Egyptian or Iranian labourers.

Saeed lives with his family in a town house. A supervisor at the local marketing centre, he employs five labourers at his farm, about 10 km from Al Ain.

If anything, the scheme has

been too successful.

Hareb said the centre is inundated with produce it cannot sell and destroys more than half Al Ain's vegetable production.

Truckloads of tomatoes pull up at the marketing centre daily but of an average 200 tonnes brought in, only 30 tonnes find local buyers and 50 tonnes are exported to other Gulf Arab states, officials said.

They hope a 37,000-tonne-capacity canning factory due to open this month will mop up some of the surplus.

Authorities have begun imposing production quotas for vegetables in surplus like tomatoes, cauliflowers, cabbages and aubergines, and withhold subsidies to farms that exceed them.

Farmers are encouraged to grow instead potatoes and onions which the UAE imports. Food imports in 1981, the most recent year for which figures are available, cost \$950 million.

For the farmers, though, the chief worry is water.

"Every year the water level gets lower," said Khaled Hussein, a government-appointed supervisor in charge of Al Ain farms. "We used to get water at 200-300 metres, but in the last three years we have had to dig to as deep as 1,000 metres."

Officials say last year was the driest on record in the UAE, and this year may even be drier.

Heavy consumption draws more water from the aquifers than can be recharged even with plentiful rain. Reserves of sweet subterranean water will be exhausted in 11 years at current consumption rates, according to official estimates.

Expansion of a desalination plant at Al Taweelah, 75 km north-east of the capital Abu Dhabi, is on the drawing board along with a pipeline to Al Ain. But a slump in oil revenues has put the project on hold.

Al Itihad newspaper said Abu Dhabi emirate was planning to spend 50 million dirhams (\$13.5 million) to find new water resources under a two-year project assigned to the national drilling company.

Saeed bought a tanker to transport extra water from city reservoirs. Even so, he estimates his yield has declined 60 per cent over the last five years.

Farmers in the poorer northern emirate of Ras Al Khaimah suffered a 75 per cent decline in vegetable production this season because of the low water table and high salinity.

Officials say desalination units or groundwater discoveries are needed to maintain current agricultural growth. Overall crop production rose to 592,000 tonnes last year from 102,000 tonnes in 1977 and is expected to continue climbing along with the number of farms despite lower yields in many cases.

Thor Heyerdahl, 71, still challenging history books

By Simon Haydon
Reuters

OSLO — At an age when most men would be content to sit back and read, Norwegian explorer and adventurer Thor Heyerdahl is still rewriting the history books on basic facts about the people of the southern hemisphere.

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More than 20 million copies of Heyerdahl's book about the Kon-Tiki adventure have been sold. The expedition marked the start of a career that has taken him to many of the most obscure parts of the world.

Heyerdahl, who has admitted he could not swim when the Kon-Tiki expedition began, divides his time between exploring and writing about his adventures from his home in the Italian Riviera village of Laigueglia.

The Pacific Ocean and its inhabitants have fascinated Heyerdahl since he interrupted his college course in Norway in 1927 to live in the Marquesas, a tiny Pacific island group.

While there, he developed the theories that have dominated much of his work — that the Polynesian islands could have been populated in ancient times by travellers from South America.

His next adventure was to attempt to prove that ancient Egyptians could have arrived in the western hemisphere centuries before Christopher Columbus landed in 1492.

Using almost-vanished marine expertise, Heyerdahl built Ra I and Ra II, replicas of ancient Egyptian sea-going vessels, and succeeded in 1970 in sailing the flimsy, papyrus Ra II from Morocco to Barbados.

In the early 1980s, he joined an

expedition to the Maldive islands in the Indian Ocean, where he proved contact with the Indian subcontinent mainland as early as 2000 B.C. by discovering traces of Buddhist and Hindu civilisations.

He first visited Easter Island, some 2,000 miles west of Chile, in 1955. The island is dotted with huge rock statues of bizarre-looking human figures carved by ancient islanders.

The statues, some weighing 80 tonnes, mark graves and ceremonial sites, and are carved from volcanic rock from one part of the island. Heyerdahl, with the aid of a Czechoslovak engineer, may be close to solving the mystery of how the structures were moved around the island.

Island folklore has it that the statues walked from the volcano to their positions.

Anne Skjelsvold, head of research at the Oslo Kon-Tiki Museum, which houses the famous rafts used by Heyerdahl, said solving the mystery of how the statues were moved was the main point of the expedition.

Heyerdahl's expedition will spend about six weeks on Easter Island preparing for the main adventure — in which a research team will try to move one of the giant Easter Island statues — starting in 1987.

The Czechoslovak engineer, Pavel Pavel, after studying full-

scale replicas of the statues, has said they could have been transported vertically using a sophisticated system of ropes and pulleys.

Heyerdahl has said he will also use his trip to the Easter Island, starting on January 22, to try to prevent Chilean authorities from allowing the airstrip on the island to be extended for use as an emergency landing site for the U.S. space shuttle.

The U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) said last year it was discussing with Chile plans to establish the emergency landing site, which would involve extending the Mataveria airfield.

Heyerdahl and other conservationists have pledged to resist any moves that could disrupt the unique archaeological character of Easter Island.

The island is central to Heyerdahl's theory that ancient South Americans reached Polynesia by way of Easter Island, and he says links between the statues and Peruvian pre-Inca carvings provide partial evidence that the travellers stopped there.

Scientists have now acknowledged Heyerdahl's arguments that South America was a source for the population of the Pacific islands, and have abandoned theories that southeast Asia was the only source.

Biography says Chou could have fought harder to counter Mao

By Jeff Bradley
The Associated Press

PEKING — The late premier Chou En-Lai might have done more to blunt the ultra-leftist mistakes of Mao Tse-tung's last years, says a new official biography issued to mark the 10th anniversary of Chou's death.

The 238-page paperback says Chou was a shadowboxer who declined to confront Mao face-to-face.

But it credits him with keeping the ship of state afloat through the chaos of the 1960-75 "Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution," protecting thousands of potential victims from rampaging Red Guards.

"Chou En-Lai, A Profile," by Percy and Lucy Fang, is packed with new anecdotes, such as chairman Mao discovering his study was bugged and the hasty 1972 abortion that denied Chou and his wife any children.

The authors are a Chinese couple who have lived and worked abroad and recently retired from Peking Radio and the weekly Peking Review.

Published only in English by the foreign languages press but available at Chinese bookstores, the "informal" biography glosses over Chou's long record of support for Mao's brand of revolutionary Communism and his initial backing for the Cultural Revolution.

It describes him as a "consummate diplomat" and implementer of policy, and concentrates on his struggle to preserve stability in the 1960s in a power struggle with leftists led by Mao's wife, Jiang Qing, now imprisoned.

The questions raised about Chou's role in Communist China's most unruly decade underline an official ambivalence in appraising Chou, premier from 1949 until his death from cancer Jan. 8, 1976.

Many senior officials still revere him as their sole protector at a time when radicals were smashing lives and homes.

But the current regime of Deng Xiaoping, who was purged in 1966 and again in 1976, seldom mentions Chou or stages commemorations. Deng has condemned Mao's "leftist errors" and abandoned his policies.

Born into an impoverished family in 1898, Chou was given to a foster mother at one year of age and was orphaned at 10. He went to live with an uncle, where a teacher converted him to the revolutionary cause, the book said.

By the 1930s, he was an experienced Communist fighter and a rival to Mao for the party leadership, which Mao secured in 1955.

"No two men sharing power at

the pinnacle could be as different in temperament," the book said, describing Mao as forceful and earthy while Chou was circumspect and subtle.

"He was given to too much shadowboxing with Mao Tse-tung rather than taking Mao on in a face-to-face contest of wills, as sometimes seemed not only necessary but imperative," it added.

When it became apparent the Cultural Revolution — announced as a bureaucratic purge — had gone wrong, Chou tried to control the excesses of teen-age Red Guards but failed to confront Mao.

One official estimate says 1 million Chinese died and 30 million were persecuted during the upheaval. The most prominent casualty was head of state Liu Shao-chi, who died in a makeshift prison in 1969. Others included one of Chou's 10 adopted children, daughter Sun Weishi, a victim of Jiang Qing's hatred.

"Could he not have taken a firmer stand in opposition to this madness?" the book asked.

Its answer was that in the first five years of the Cultural Revolution, Chou felt obliged to go along with Mao and "only retention of the premiership enabled him to hold together the sprawling leviathan of the government."

But it added: "If fighting ultra-leftism was what the country then needed most of all, and Chou's stand could have made a difference, perhaps he gave up too easily, lacking the combativeness to stick to his guns."

Nevertheless, the book said the Chinese people are inclined to pass over Chou's failings because of his struggle to "keep the ship of state afloat" and combat Jiang Qing's faction — "all this from a hospital bed in his last two years."

The book related an incident in 1972 when Mao was told that security boss Kang Sheng had bugged his residence.

Kang categorically denied any knowledge. However, three months later, when the chairman was rearranging his study, he came upon listening devices," it added.

Before answering Mao's second summons, Kang "had the three technicians who actually installed the silenced forever. Dead men do not talk," the book said.

As young revolutionaries in 1927, Chou and his wife, Deng Yingchao, had to flee quickly from Chiang Kai-shek's nationalists, the book said. Deng was expecting the couple's first baby but in order to flee quickly, took some traditional medicine that brought on an abortion.

"If only I had not left Canton, our only child might have lived," it quoted Chou as telling his wife later.

Dalai Lama echoes worlds hunger for peace, harmony

By Seema Sirohi
The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — The Dalai Lama, Tibet's self-exiled "god-king," said on Dec. 12 that modern man "hungers and thirsts for peace" in the world of nuclear weapons and said that meditation can promote inner tranquility and world peace.

"Today in this nuclear world with all these awful weapons used for mutual destruction, there is great need for peace, but big nations only make some more weapons to make more peace," the

Dalai Lama told the opening of a two-day conference on meditation and mental peace in New Delhi.

The only remedy is developing real human understanding," he told about 600 Indians. "Whether we like each other or not, we have to live together on this small planet and that is the reality," said the leader of Tibetan Buddhists, who fled his Himalayan kingdom in an abortive uprising against Chinese Communist occupiers in 1959.

The Dalai Lama, who now lives in India, called for a synthesis of Western science and material pro-

gress with spiritualism of the east to help solve the world's problems, including the quest for peace.

"We are always looking outside for answers," he said, speaking in English. "But it is extremely important to think of the inner world. Yet, the mind is formless and it must be channelled through meditation."

The spiritual leader said that meditation, conducted in a scientific manner, could help relieve tension and turmoil and give a new direction to life for individuals, groups and mankind.

"Life is hollow without spiritualism. We cannot attain mental peace without it," he said.

"If man is not happy and always hungers and thirsts for peace, then there is no real progress."

In the 20th century, he said, mankind has achieved great material progress, but enormous human suffering remains. "The proper way to have more harmony and peace is to combine mental and material progress to raise the importance of spiritual development."

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"No two men sharing power at

Soviet writers debate Communist Party projects

By Alison Smaile
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Seven well-known Soviet writers have protested plans to divert northward-flowing rivers to the parched south of the Soviet Union and demanded that the scheme be taken out of a Communist Party document outlining projects until 2000.

The protest, published on Dec. 3 in the daily newspaper Sovetskaya Rossiya, said the project will cost too much and cause ecological damage.

"Its expense is without precedent," the article said, and "East is not know the consequences of diverting the water flow to the Arctic Ocean," whose ecology affects weather in the northern hemisphere.

The project foresees diverting water from the Ob and Yenisey rivers, which empty into the Arctic Ocean, and would mean flooding large areas of northern

Russia, destroying farmland and submerging some of the most historic Russian towns and villages.

"It is impossible to save some part of a living organism at the expense of destroying another," the writers said.

The protests indicated the recent interest shown by Soviet intellectuals and others in conserving nature and history.

Those signing the statement included Valentin Rasputin and Viktor Afanasyev, who wrote about country life in Siberia, and Yuri Bondarev, a popular chronicler of life in World War II and in the postwar years.

Others signing were Vasily Belov and Leonid Leonov, who focus on peasant life and nature; Dmitri Likhachev and Sergei Zalygin, whose speech at a recent writers' congress centred on the river diversion project and the need for men of letters to speak out sometimes against planners.

Zalygin has written a novel set on the Irtysh River in Siberia, one

of the waterways that could be affected by further river diversion plans, and once worked as a hydrologist in the Siberian branch of the Academy of Sciences.

Sovetskaya Rossiya, daily organ for the Russian Republic and published by the Communist Party Central Committee, printed the writers' protest as part of daily contributions to debate of party plans before the national party congress begins Feb. 25.

Draft guidelines for the economy up to 2000 were published late last year and included plans "to start work on the project of diverting part of the flow of the northern rivers to the Volga basin and from the Volga to the Don and the Kuban."

The writers said they had travelled several times to the north to discuss the river diversion with scientists, Communist Party officials, conservationists and irrigation experts and concluded that the project was insufficiently considered.

"We have one country, there will be no other, and we should show concern for it, for its riches," they wrote. "In our opinion, interference with natural conditions historically created over millions of years without serious consideration of all the details of how to exploit nature, without checking the scientific and economic basis many times, threatens serious consequences not only for future generations but for those who are living today."

At the writers' congress last month, Zalygin said writers should become more involved in society.

"I very often hear from the experts that the discussion of the technical problems is not the business of us writers," he said.

"But the question is, when we transform nature, we also uproot human beings from this nature, we deprive a human being of the natural historical environment in which he grew up, lives and works."

Bringing up baby starts before birth

By Lisa Levitt Ryckman
The Associated Press

HAYWARD, California — Every morning and night during the last month of Eileen Danielson's pregnancy, her husband would lay his cheek against her swollen belly and talk to their unborn baby.

One day he said, "Hi, baby. This is daddy." The baby kicked back. As time went on, it became clear that when Danielson talked, his baby responded.

In the delivery room last October, Robert Danielson spoke to his son face-to-face for the first time.

"He said, 'Hi, baby. This is daddy.' And immediately, the baby stopped crying," Mrs. Danielson said. "As soon as he heard Bob's voice, he tried to lift his head and turn to look at him. It was amazing."

The Danielsons were enrolled in Dr. F. Rene van de Carr's prenatal university, where more than 700 expectant parents have learned simple techniques the Danielsons used to give their unborn child a head start on communication.

The programme was born in 1979 when one of van de Carr's patients told him that she and her husband had been playing games with their unborn infant, patting her stomach and encouraging the child to kick in a certain spot.

Now 13 months, red-haired, blue-eyed Bobby Danielson has had an amazing first year. At four months, he could say, "Mamma" and "Da Da". At seven months, he began walking. Now he says words like "juice" and "vacuum", and amuses himself with picture books for 15 and 20 minutes at a time.

And he already has received his first degree: "Baby Superior."

"The baby can hear the intonations of the mother, the mother's heart, her breathing mov-

ements, and many, many sounds that come in from the outside," van de Carr said. "But until the baby learns that some sounds are more important than others, the baby has no way of discerning what has meaning and what doesn't."

Channeling the baby's perceptions in van de Carr's programme begins at five months with the "kick game," a way of getting the child's attention twice a day for a few minutes each time. When baby kicks, the parent pats that spot, then waits for baby to kick again.

"After you don't do anything for a minute or two, the baby kicks again," van de Carr said. "You pat again, then pause. The baby waits for a little while, then kicks again. If you pat somewhere else, the baby may actually move its foot to kick where you patted."

After two months of the kick game, the baby's response pattern is established, and it's time to add what van de Carr calls his "primary word list," six basic words connected with distinct physical sensations: Pat, rub, squeeze, shake, stroke and tap.

Child development specialists he consulted insisted such efforts were a waste of time, but van de Carr's own knowledge of fetal development, his theories about prenatal psychology and the experiences of his patients convinced him otherwise.

In one study involving 150 mothers, those who faithfully followed the prenatal university programmes reported that their children had a significantly higher incidence of pre-speech, early speech and use of compound words, van de Carr said.

Familiarising unborn children with rudimentary communication helps ease the trauma of birth, van de Carr believes. The babies tend to cry less at delivery and seem to be calmer afterward.

European duo wins third world doubles tennis title

LONDON (AP) — Heinz Guenthardt and Balazs Taroczy won the \$200,000 World Doubles Tennis Championship for a record third time Sunday when they beat Australian Open champions Paul Annacone and Christo Van Rensburg in a titanic five-set struggle.

Winners previously in 1982 and 83 and reigning Wimbledon doubles titlists, the European partnership won 6-4, 1-6, 7-6, (7-2), 6-7 (6-8), 6-4 in 3½ hours on the Supreme surface at the Royal Albert Hall to clinch the \$72,000 first prize.

Experience was the vital factor in the final as Guenthardt, a 26-year-old Swiss, and Taroczy, a 31-year-old Hungarian, finally blunted the booming serve of Annacone, a 22-year-old American, and slowed down Van Rensburg, a 23-year-old South African all-court player.

Annacone sent down 13 aces in the match, but, ironically, after 36 games without a service break, it was his serve that cracked to give the Europeans the title.

Van Rensburg crashed twice in the opening set.

In the third game his serve was broken when he double faulted at 0-40, and in the very next game, with Taroczy's serve under pressure, the South African tumbled off court going for a wide return.

Van Rensburg tore through the fencing surrounding the court and was grabbed by a court-side photographer before landing in the

flowers.

The final was held up for 20 minutes while the fencing was repaired.

The delay had no effect on the ice-cool Europeans, who went on to clinch the opening set.

The Australian Open champions roared back on the second by ripping five straight games before Guenthardt ended the streak by holding his serve at 1-5.

Van Rensburg then held serve confidently to square the match. With no breaks of serve in the third set, it went to a tie-break which the European pair breezed 7-2.

Van Rensburg saved two break points in the seventh game of the fourth and Guenthardt saved two in the tenth as the set went to yet another tie-break, the 20th of the 17-match tourney and the ninth involving Annacone and Van Rensburg.

In the second tie-break, Guenthardt engineered a match point at 6-5 with a powerful serve, but a brave volley by Annacone kept his team in the match.

Two points later the final was all square when Taroczy netted a volley following up his serve.

The serve-dominated struggle continued with no sign of a break until the previously dominant Annacone — who is due to face Wimbledon champion Boris Becker in next week's Masters' Singles Tourney in New York — crumbled.

Guenthardt produced a stunning service return to set up an easy volley for his partner.

Ironically, the first break point of the match against Annacone was match point to his opponents and a brilliant interception by Guenthardt clinched the title.

It was the second time in the tourney and the third time in six months that the four players had produced a marathon contest.

In the round-robin group stage, Guenthardt and Taroczy triumphed after a 4½ hour five set epic that included three tie breaks.

In the quarterfinals at Wimbledon last summer, the Swiss-Hungarian partnership won a five-hour battle that ended 24-22 in the fifth set.

After their latest triumph, Taroczy said: "We've had three great matches against them."

"I don't feel we returned very well, but I thought Annacone had slowed down on his serve near the end, which helped us."

"We won a lot of tie-breaks in the tournament (5-2) which was very important," he added.

Annacone said: "These guys just played well against us. They don't seem to miss many balls against us for some reason."



LIKE A FISH OUT OF?: Soviet musician Dmitry Kadyryachikov built this amphibious car, called the Tryton. Its top road speed is 110 kph, while on water it reaches 50 kph (TASS photo)

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Sharari leaves for Baghdad meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — Youth Minister Hisham Sharari left Monday for Baghdad at the head of a two-man official delegation to the meetings of the Arab Ministers of Youth and Sports Council, due to open on Tuesday. Mr. Sharari will present to the four day meetings some proposals on future studies for supporting the Arab Sports Installations Fund and the five year sports and youth plan. On the meeting agenda are a number of items pertaining to joint Arab work in the sports and youth fields and other subjects of mutual interest, such as Arab youth camps, Arab youth festivals and recommendations of the national institutions for preparing youth leaderships. Mr. Sharari is accompanied by Jordan Youth Organisation Director General Mohammad Jamil Abu Al Tayyeb.

Mexico seeking release of Sanchez

MADRID (R) — Mexico is hoping to obtain the release of striker Hugo Sanchez from Spanish Soccer League leaders Real Madrid to play in a World Cup warm-up match against the Soviet Union on February 19, Madrid club officials said Monday. They said Madrid was considering the request and was prepared to release Sanchez, the Spanish league's top scorer, but any final decision would depend on the club's performance in the next few weeks. The request was made by Mexican coach Bora Milutinovic in Madrid at the weekend.

Real Madrid stunned early, but storm back to win 4-1

MADRID (R) — Leader Real Madrid thrashed Espanol 4-1 Sunday to stay four points clear of champions Barcelona in the Spanish Soccer League. Barcelona beat Atletico Madrid 2-1 on Saturday.

A 70,000 crowd at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium was stunned when Espanol's Danish striker John Lauridsen filtered through the Madrid defence to set up Bartolome Marquez to open the score after only 40 seconds.

But Madrid's international stopper Antonio Maceda equalised five minutes later after a mistake by Espanol's Cameroun goalkeeper Thomas N'Kono and Argentine Jorge Valdano lobbed home the second before halftime.

Veteran winger Juanito Gomez, who has staged a comeback as a

midfielder over the past few weeks, dribbled past two men to set up the third goal for Mexican Hugo Sanchez in the 61st minute and Maceda completed the scoring with a header two minutes later.

Barcelona were also a goal down in their game when Julio Prieto scored for Atletico Madrid after 21 minutes, but Esteban Vigo equalised four minutes later.

Spanish international central defender Jose Alesanco headed their winner from a corner by West German midfielder Bernd Schuster after 59 minutes.

Athletic Bilbao and Sporting Gijon were both involved in goalless draws and remain fourth and fifth in the table, level on points with Atletico Madrid, four points behind Barcelona.

Benfica retains share of lead

LISBON (R) — Benfica had a fright Sunday when they conceded an early goal to bottom-placed Maritimo but fought back to win 2-1 and retain their shared lead with rivals Sporting in the Portuguese Soccer Championship.

Lisbon rivals Sporting also won but made heavy weather of a 1-0 victory over Aves who packed their defence to deny Sporting any chances until the 65th minute when captain Manuel Fernandes headed the deciding goal from a free kick.

Benfica's international keeper Manuel Bento had his run of 11 matches without conceding a goal broken when Maritimo's Rocaas scored from outside the area 10 minutes into the game.

Maritimo's defence defied Benfica's forwards until the last half hour when Rui Aguiar came to his team's rescue, scoring in the 76th minute and again in the 86th with a winning header.

Champions Porto, two points behind the leaders, beat Salgueiros 2-0 with Fernando Gomes once again showing the clinical finishing which has made him Portugal's best hope for goals when they go to the World Cup Finals in Mexico.

Gomes scored from the penalty spot in the 61st minute and then followed with a second goal seven minutes from time.

Guimaraes, who are having an excellent season, beat Covilha 5-0 thanks in part to two goals from Brazilian signing Paulinho Cascael — the division's top scorer with 17 goals.

Irish tap global racehorse market

By Brent Bowers and Ken O'Brien

CASHEL, Ireland — It's not a hope, it's a conviction. The Irish say they're the best racehorse breeders in the world. It was nice knowing you, Kentucky.

"If it isn't Kentucky of Europe, it's going to be," says Bill Hartley, financial controller of Robert J. Goff & Co., the country's biggest bloodstock auction house in the town of Kill. Goff's sales soared to \$52.2 million in 1984, eight times their level a decade earlier. Says David Nagle, the company's brash ("I do the hollerin'") No. 1 caller, "Fifteen years ago, we weren't on the map. Now, we're selling to an international market almost entirely."

While many people consider horse breeding little more than a hobby for the idle rich, it is a growing and lucrative international business. And for Ireland, it is a welcome beacon of light in an otherwise dreary economic landscape.

But the Kentucky of Europe? Ask Charles Haughey, former prime minister, former finance minister and current opposition leader. It was Mr. Haughey who got parliament in 1969 to make stud fees tax exempt, a move many people say spurred the current breeding boom.

A grand plan

"Kentucky? Where's Kentucky?" he asks, scowling from an armchair in his Dublin office. "I've never been there." A flick of his gray eyebrows is the only hint that he's joking. Then he launches into a speech extolling the legislation he introduced. "I set out to make Ireland the breeding centre of Europe, if not the world," Mr. Haughey says. "The way to do that was to get stallions in here."

It worked, as stud farms sprouted in the east and south of the island, operated by both Irish entrepreneurs and big-time foreign investors.

One of the first outsiders to move in was British football-pools millionaire Robert Sangster, who came to Ireland in the early 1970s. He was followed by the two Mak-toun brothers of the Dubai royal family, American tire magnate Bertram Firestone and Saudi Prince Abdullah.

They joined established names like the Aga Khan and up-and-coming Irish breeders such as shipping heir Stuart Mullion, and brought in multimillion-dollar stallions that are attracting top racing mares from every corner of the globe.

They were drawn not so much by tax breaks as by the mildness of the climate, which breeders liken to that of New Zealand, another capital of the world horse industry.

The animals, says Finance Minister Alan Dukes, flourish on the mineral-rich grasses that grow year-round in the unpolluted ocean air. He tells the story of a Japanese visitor to the Irish National Stud, the state-run breeding farm, who spent several days taking soil samples and temperature and rain readings with a view to duplicating the conditions back home.

The breeders' activities culminated in a statistical triumph for Ireland last year: For the first time, more thoroughbred foals were born in the country than in neighbouring Britain, 4,600 vs. 4,500. Ireland became No. 1 in Europe.

Patrick McGrath, founder of Waterford Glass PLC and grand old man of Irish racing — he is chairman of Goff and the Irish Hospitals Sweepstakes, and has headed the Racing Board for the past 19 years — thinks Ireland's breeding dominance is only natural: Horses, he says, are in his people's blood.

"Even kids talk horses," says the white-haired 58-year-old, who has given up whiskey and cigars and now drinks 24 cups of decaffeinated coffee a day.

"Nothing has changed. It's just that the rest of the world is waking

up," he says. In fact, the world has taken notice before. In the late 15th century, Venetian geographer Antonio Baccaria described the beauty of the native animals, writing that "they seem to have been taught by nature to move with certain rhythm as though in royal style."

A couple of centuries later, Sir William Temple, England's ambassador to Holland, was of the opinion that "the soil (of Ireland) is of a sweet and plentiful grass, which will raise a large breed."

Today, Mr. Mullion, managing director of the Ardenode and Ragusa stud farms in Ballymore Eustace, says the supremacy of Irish horses endures. "This country is in deep economic trouble, and here we have a product we can sell to the world," he says. "It's nice to say to the Japanese, well, you've got the cars, we've got the horses."

The stud operation generating the most excitement these days is the Coolmore Group, a 1,500-acre complex of farms near Cashel, ancient seat of the kings of Munster. Set up 10 years ago by Mr. Sangster, Vincent O'Brien, Ireland's legendary trainer, and local entrepreneur John Magnier, it has evolved into Europe's biggest breeding grounds.

Christy Grassick, the chunky, tousle-haired manager, takes a pair of guests to the stallions' quarters. He motions to waiting stable hands to usher forward, one by one, more than half a dozen race-track conquistadors, the majority of them sons and grandsons of the world's most famous sire, Northern Dancer. In less than 10 minutes, more than \$100 million of horse flesh is put on show and waved away with flick of a hand.

In the five-month mating season that begins Feb. 15, Mr. Grassick says, as many as 600 brood mares will come to Coolmore to tap into these champions' bloodlines. An 80 per cent of the business will come from abroad — the U.S., Britain, France, Italy and Spain. — The Wall Street Journal

After an "off" year, McEnroe seeks to recover form at Masters tourney

By Jack Cavanagh
Reporter

NEW YORK — After a bleak 1985, John McEnroe faces a daunting task in his first major assignment of 1986, the defence of his Grand Prix Masters Tennis title starting at Madison Square Garden Tuesday.

McEnroe, who failed to win a Grand Slam tournament last year, has the world's outstanding players arrayed against him in the 16-man event, notably Czechoslovak Ivan Lendl, the player who supplanted him as the world number one, and teenagers Boris Becker of West Germany and Swede Stefan Edberg.

In contrast to McEnroe's poor year, Becker and Edberg marked 1985 with glorious successes, landing Grand Slam titles before their 20th birthdays. Becker, 17 at the time, won Wimbledon and Edberg claimed the Australian Open.

In Tuesday's opening matches, Mats Wilander of Sweden faces American Scott Davis, Edberg

meets Johan Kriek of the United States, Becker plays American Paul Annacone and Jimmy Connors takes on Henri Leconte of France.

The concluding first-round matches on Wednesday will be Sweden's Anders Jarryd against compatriot Joakim Nystrom, Yannick Noah of France against



John McEnroe: hopes to return to his winning ways in this week's Grand Prix Master's tourney (File photo)

American Tim Mayotte, Lendl against compatriot Tomas Smid and McEnroe against Brad Gilbert in an all-American contest.

The quarter-finals will be played on Thursday and Friday, the semifinals on Saturday and the final on Sunday afternoon. The winner will receive \$100,000 and the runnerup \$70,000.

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Furnished apartments comprise of two bedrooms, two baths, fully-equipped kitchen, big sitting room and dining room. Centrally heated and with private telephone.

Location: Jordan University Professors Housing Quarter
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The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan

1st Circle, Jaba Amman, near Ahlyiah Girls School
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6:30 - Midnight
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Come and taste our specialties
Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.
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Cinema
CONCORD
Tel: 677420

BODY HEAT

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema
RAINBOW
Tel: 625155

THE FLAMINGO KID

(Colour)
Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

Cinema
AL-HUSSEIN
Tel: 622112

HIGH-BALLIN

(Colour)
Performances: 12:00, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00

* Cine Theatre
Philadelphia
Tel: 634144 - 634149

CLOSED AND SHORTLY WILL BE REOPENED

Cinema
RAGHADAN
Tel: 622198

FORCED VENGEANCE

(Colour)
Performances: 12:00, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00

Cinema
OPERA
Abdulla, behind Alia offices
Tel: 675673

ROLLER BOOGIE

(Colour)
Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

Ghana devalues currency, increases minimum wage

ACCRA (R) — Ghana Sunday announced it was devaluing its currency by one-third and increasing its minimum daily wage by 25 per cent.

A finance ministry statement distributed by the official Ghana News Agency (GNA) said the new exchange rate would be 90 cedi to the U.S. dollar. The old rate was 60.

The statement said the adjustment was in line with the African state's flexible exchange rate policy and aimed to ensure profitability and more efficiency in domestic production.

The minimum daily wage rose from 50 cedi to 70 cedi while personal taxation was reduced and some allowances were increased by five per cent of annual gross salary, GNA reported.

The statement said Ghanaian development expenditure during

the first three months of 1986 was estimated at 2.5 billion cedis (\$28 million at the new exchange rate).

Accra radio quoted the finance minister as saying the devaluation was also aimed at encouraging Ghanaians living abroad to send home remittances via the country's banking system instead of the black market and at promoting greater domestic purchases of Ghanaian goods.

The former British colony's gross domestic product rose 5.3 per cent last year against a 7.6 per cent 1984 increase.

Ghana's policy of gradually devaluing the cedi and encouraging exports, notably of cocoa and minerals, is backed by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

Substantial Western credit has also aided the country's economic recovery in the last two years.

Egypt to maintain oil output levels despite price cuts

CAIRO (R) — Egypt, which cut its oil prices by about \$1 a barrel this month, will not boost production to make up for revenues lost by the slump in world prices, Oil Minister Abdul Hadi Kandeel said Sunday.

In an interview with Egypt's Middle East News Agency, Mr. Kandeel said Egypt would maintain output at present levels to safeguard the country's proven crude reserves, which he put at three billion barrels.

Egypt has a daily production of 870,000 barrels, of which it exports nearly a third. Last week, it announced cuts of nearly \$1 for January, pricing its top and most actively traded grade, Suez blend, at \$25.70.

Mr. Kandeel said foreign exploration firms would shortly work in the deep waters of the Mediterranean and the Red Sea for the first time, adding that France's Total and the U.S. company Amoco had been given concessions there.

Arab Gulf officials see need for more self-reliance

KUWAIT (R) — A senior Iraqi economic official has called on the Gulf Arab states to show more self-reliance in developing their economies.

Mr. Abdul Qader Abdul Latif, president of the Iraqi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, made the call at a meeting Sunday night of the Federation of Arab Gulf Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

The federation comprises Iraq and the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Mr. Abdul Latif, presiding as acting chairman, said: "Building modern industrial projects based on imported studies, technology, administration and maintenance do not give a real background for development," the Kuwait News Agency reported.

The meeting, he said, reflected the "importance of coordination and integration among Arab Gulf states to face outside competition to Gulf industries."

Declining financial resources suggested a compelling need to speed up economic integration, the agency quoted Kuwait chamber of commerce and industry president, Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Saqr, as saying earlier.

In a meeting of GCC chamber presidents only, he predicted a greater role for the private sector in economic development.

Bahraini cabinet approves \$3b budget for '86 and '87

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain's cabinet Sunday approved a combined budget of 1.1 billion dinars (about \$3 billion) for the years 1986 and 1987 and pledged to continue an austerity programme to cut spending.

"The budget takes into account fluctuations in the oil market situation, but will not affect basic services aimed at raising the standard of living," Crown Prince Hamad bin Sulman Al Khalifa told the Gulf News Agency.

Sheikh Hamad did not give estimated revenues for the two years, nor did he say whether any deficit had been posted for 1985. But he said the current austerity programme would continue.

No breakdown of expenditures was given.

According to the Bahrain Monetary Agency, the government posted a surplus of \$27 million in 1984. No figures have been published for 1985, although a deficit of about \$95 million was originally projected.

Finance Minister Ibrahim Abdul Karim said last week Bahrain would borrow to finance a budget deficit caused by lower oil prices.

U.K., France renew efforts to decide on channel link

LONDON (R) — British and French ministers renewed efforts Monday to decide on what type of fixed link there should be between Britain and Europe hoping to reach agreement before the deadline set for Monday next week.

British officials said Transport Minister Nicholas Ridley and his French counterpart, Mr. Jean Auroux, met for almost two hours in London and would have at least one more round of talks.

Mr. Ridley, asked whether they would have chosen one of four rival privately-funded schemes to span or tunnel the 35-kilometre straits between France and Britain in time for a planned announcement on Monday next week, told reporters: "I think so."

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and President Francois Mitterrand are due to announce the winning project at a joint ceremony in the northern French town of Lille.

The four schemes for the project, an idea first floated by French emperor Napoleon in 1802 during a war against Britain, range from an all-rail tunnel link under the channel to a road bridge over it.

Anglo-French consortia are promoting all four.

The current front runners are the all-rail tunnel and separate road and rail tunnels. British sources say a scheme combining bridges and tunnels has an outside chance.

Neither Britain nor France has given any public hint of its preferences.

Some informed sources suggest that given France's lead in high speed trains, Mr. Mitterrand favours a rail link while Mrs. Thatcher and her government want a road link.

Commentators speculate that Mr. Mitterrand, with an eye on posterity, might also favour the most imposing project — a combined bridge and tunnel linked to artificial islands.

The cost of the four projects, according to the rival consortia, ranges from £2.3 billion (\$3.1 billion) to £5.2 billion (\$7.5 billion).

Both Mr. Ridley and Mr. Auroux refused to say what stage their talks had reached. "We are making history. It takes several meetings to make history," Mr. Auroux told reporters.

British officials said that although the two countries usually met alternately in Britain and France the venue of remaining rounds of talks would depend on the ministers' diaries.

"The protocol goes out of the window when you are coming near agreement," a British spokeswoman said.

There have been two abortive attempts to build the link. The first was abandoned in 1883, the second in 1975.

The Channel Tunnel group which is behind the all-rail tunnel link says that its scheme, the cheapest of the four, relies on tried and tested technology but critics say it could be vulnerable to closure by industrial action.

W. German share prices unlikely to post '85 surge

FRANKFURT (R) — West German share prices, which last year enjoyed the third highest gains in the industrialised world, are unlikely to surge quite so dramatically in 1986, though stock dealers and analysts expect a continued steady climb.

But they cautioned that prices were higher now, relative to profits, than they had been for several years. Should the dollar fall further, profits from exports could also suffer, stemming much of the impetus behind the market's rise in 1985.

One dealer for a major West German bank said while profits could have been made in almost any German stock last year, "1986 is going to be a year of timing and selectivity."

West Germany's eight bourses would, in any case, find it difficult to match 1985's record. The Commerzbank index of 60 leading shares rose by almost 75 per cent, a dizzy climb topped only by Milan and Vienna.

Nevertheless, prices should be well supported by expected growth this year of around 3½ per cent in West Germany's Gross National Product (GNP), the measure of the nation's income, said Citibank economist Ute Geipel.

Consumer spending should rise strongly, fuelled by some 11 billion marks (\$4.5 billion) in income tax and social security relief, analysts said.

Private spending accounts for about 56 per cent of GNP. But it has been overshadowed in the last

two years by the strong performance of exporters who made windfall profits as the dollar soared close to 3.50 marks last February. It now stands at 2.44.

Analysts said inflation should also remain low this year, after 2.2 per cent recorded in 1985, the lowest in 15 years.

International funds should flow strongly into the mark, anticipating its revaluation against other currencies within the European Monetary System, a grouping of eight European Community (EC) currencies aimed at achieving exchange rate stability.

But a steady rise in stock prices could be upset should the dollar fall below 2.20 marks, making exports to North America unprofitable, they said.

Some analysts have said prices might have reached a peak. But these views appeared to be contradicted by the Commerzbank index, which has hit new highs recently.

It roared up to 2,048.9 last week, nearly six per cent higher than on the first day of 1986 trading.

Margot Schoenen, research head at Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale, said increased exports to other European countries would offset much of the

damage to export profits caused by the falling dollar.

Citing engineering companies as an example, Ms. Schoenen said the quality of goods and reliability of supplies offered by West German firms would outweigh much of the price disadvantage in North America, should the mark rise further against the dollar.

"The dollar is not the single decisive factor. I'm confident that our fundamental data are so robust that German shares will remain interesting for foreign investors," she said.

Analysts estimate local investors were net sellers of shares for much of 1985 from March on, overwhelmed by overseas demand.

Ms. Susanne Owen, of London stockbroker Griveeson, Grant, said many West German shares were still undervalued by international standards, in relation to profits. These included chemicals and some carmakers.

The West German market, once regarded by investors as somewhat exotic compared with Wall Street, Tokyo and London, was now regarded as a serious alternative, she added.

Statistics for the Frankfurt bourse, where slightly more than half of West German share business is transacted, show stock turnover more than doubled in 1985 to a record 97.7 billion marks (\$40 billion) from 45.3 billion (\$18.5 billion) in 1984, far outstripping the previous peak set in 1983.

Wall Street experts predict merger mania to continue into early 1986

NEW YORK (R) — Billion-dollar mergers were all the rage on Wall Street last year and takeover experts predict the pace will continue into at least the first part of 1986.

The journal Mergers and Acquisitions estimates there were 2,295 deals completed in 1985 with a total value of \$125 billion. That's slightly more than the \$124.8 billion for 2,999 deals in 1984, but substantially higher than the \$52.2 billion worth in 1983.

"A radical change in the economic environment could cause this delicate confluence of factors, which has created the merger market to dry up," Mr. Ken Miller, a managing director at Merrill Lynch, said. "But I think there will be a vibrant (merger) market for the first quarter and probably the first half (of 1986)."

Broadcasting companies, pharmaceutical companies, financial institutions, energy firms and technology companies were all involved and will continue to be, experts said.

Easy financing, a lax attitude on mergers by federal regulators in the free-market Reagan era, deregulation of some industries, the decline and shrinking of other

industries, and Wall Street's demand for increased shareholder values helped spur the takeover spree, experts said.

At the same time, a backlash to the buyout frenzy has developed. A number of Wall Street professionals are beginning to question the unbridled creation of new debt which has developed as companies scramble to raise the vast amounts of cash needed to finance takeovers.

The question worrying Wall Street is how the debt is to be serviced as companies increase their debt and at the same time decrease their equity.

They are concerned about the prospect of a downturn in the economy some years down the road severely affecting companies' ability to make their payments.

Salomon Brothers estimates the volume of debt of non-financial corporations rose by \$145 billion in 1985 to \$1,600 billion.

Salomon senior economist, Mr. Henry Kaufman, has termed the amount of debt being generated — largely from takeovers — as "unwholesome."

The Federal Reserve Board (Fed), is considering slowing the use of "junk bonds," or high-risk, high-yield debt securities used in for financing, by limiting their use

in takeovers.

However, some experts now question whether the Fed proposal to restrict the use of junk bonds to half of the purchase price of a takeover will be passed this week since it has been vehemently opposed by the Reagan administration and a number of federal agencies, including the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and Justice Department.

Some of the companies that may see a lot of merger activity in 1986 are in high technology, such as the depressed semiconductor manufacturers, and the financial sector, according to Mr. Martin Siegel, vice-president and director at Kidder Peabody.

The largest deal to date, outside of the sizeable oil mergers of 1984, is the proposed takeover of Beatrice by the Specialties. Kravis and Roberts for \$6.35 billion, according to recent filings Beatrice with the SEC.

Next in line is the planned \$6.28 billion acquisition of RCA by General Electric (G.E.).

Other mega-mergers of 1985 included Philip Morris' acquisition of General Foods for \$5.8 billion, and General Motors' acquisition of Hughes Aircraft for \$5.7 billion.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, JAN. 14, 1986
GENERAL TENDENCIES: Benefits in making your goals work depend largely upon how well you apply the extra energy that is released today, even though there may be some upsets that concern you.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Get busy at personal activities of a secret nature and handle them wisely, so forget whatever else you have in mind.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Business partners can aid you in gaining personal aims if you ask for assistance tactfully.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) If you are enthused about the work at hand, you gain fine benefits and added respect from higher-ups.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Planning arrangements for later in the week with old and new friends is wise in the morning.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You have a good opportunity to plan practical matters for your kin and get good results. The evening can be very happy at home.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Contact outside associates and plan important new deals with them and avoid a family fight.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) If you put more energy into the work you are doing, you can gain greater benefits from it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You can easily gain your aspirations if you go after them in a positive and conscientious manner.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) The planets are favorable mostly to others today, so don't try to put your ideas across as yet.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A good day to handle correspondence and seek information you need, but avoid money involvements.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Seek out experts who can assist you to gain more assets and handle business matters better. Avoid a talkative person.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Be with a long-time friend who can help you to get into channels that are more lucrative. Enjoy the social in the evening.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will possess much ability at whatever is of an artistic nature plus care in business details. One who can easily understand the thoughts of others but must never let go of own convictions as well. Give good spiritual and moral training.

THE Daily Crossword by Samuel K. Flegner

ACROSS

- Stylish
- Midwest city
- Flower
- Red of tennis
- Ready for
- Plucking
- Potpourri
- Printed
- In the previous two
- Secret of
- Financial
- Success?
- Witty one
- Made by China
- Common cat
- Group
- Board follows
- Lefty punch
- Musical
- Supply
- Economics
- Cheeses
- Hausfrau's
- Presley
- Kind of
- Dancing
- Position
- It, color
- FBI's dog
- Place for an
- Old
- Root support
- Max, diet
- Excavations
- Norse god
- Best of water
- Sander
- Day leader
- Fedacy
- Wooden shoe
- Cremes
- Shin's flower
- Shoe gear
- Sandwich of a
- part
- Talk
- Yacht elite

DOWN

- 1-Bugger
- 2-Ferret
- 3-Grocery
- 4-Midnight
- 5-Value
- 6-Incandescence
- 7-Washed down
- 8-Blind
- 9-Lower
- 10-Ignited
- 11-Part of EAP
- 12-Part of TWT
- 13-Merchandise
- 14-Leonine
- 15-Stadium
- 16-Tooth edge
- 17-Oppositionist
- 18-Propagator
- 19-In an uncertain
- 20-situation
- 21-Calendar or
- 22-fiscal
- 23-Lat. pronoun
- 24-Blind as
- 25-Race distance
- 26-Clothing
- 27-Folk or spouse
- 28-Followed
- 29-Planet
- 30-Sudden urge
- 31-Decelerate
- 32-Indian
- 33-Flamenco
- 34-Dancer, Fred's
- 35-alter
- 36-Part of QED
- 37-More frosty
- 38-Indian
- 39-Group
- 40-Vertebrate
- 41-Importance
- 42-Part of QED

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

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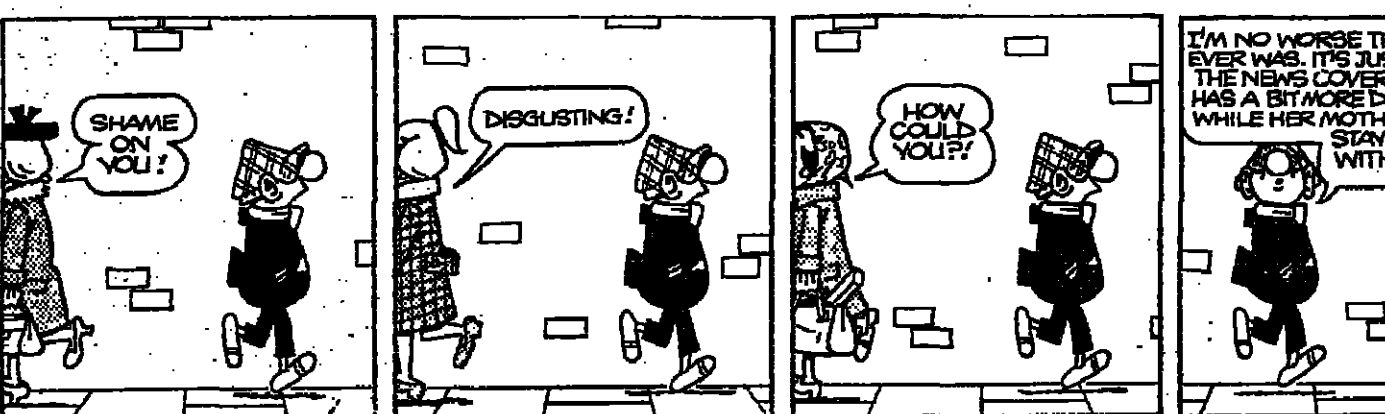
Peanuts



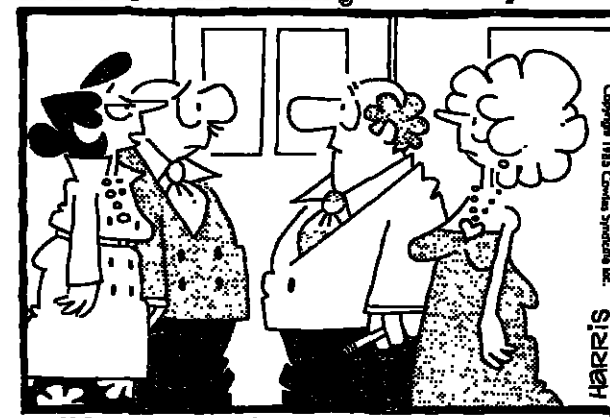
Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NOTIX

LOMOB

REEVER

HANCUL

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: A

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TITLE AWARD YEARLY FERVID
Answer: A confirmed night owl is a man who stays up all night—DAY AFTER DAY

Gandhi seeks urgent means to avert Punjab confrontation

NEW DELHI (R) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi called an emergency meeting of top aides on Monday in a bid to end a bitter row between Punjab and Haryana states over their common capital of Chandigarh, official sources said.

The sources said Mr. Gandhi and senior ministers discussed plans to avert a confrontation over the territorial dispute which has threatened a peace accord between the two states since the Indian leader signed with Punjab's moderate Sikh Akali Dal party six months ago.

The accord set a Jan. 26 deadline for the transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab. Haryana, ruled by Mr. Gandhi's Congress (I) party, has said it will not agree to the transfer unless it is given Hindi-speaking areas of Punjab as compensation.

The crisis deepened when a committee appointed by Mr. Gandhi to decide which Punjab areas should go to Haryana put off scheduled hearings until Tuesday. The committee is due to submit its report on Wednesday.

A senior Home (Interior) Ministry official said Mr. Gandhi was likely to extend the committee's term by a few days while he tried to negotiate a compromise bet-

Haryana was given Abohar and Fazilka simultaneously.

He said he also wanted a guarantee from the central government that an irrigation channel taking Punjab river waters to Haryana would be completed by an Aug. 15 deadline.

Construction of a major stretch of the channel has been held up by protesting Punjab farmers who do not want it to cut through their fields.

"Completion of the canal is a matter of life and death for Haryana and Punjab is deliberately delaying the construction," Mr. Lal said in a statement.

He has called a meeting of Haryana's government and opposition politicians on Tuesday to discuss the territorial and water rights issues.

Opposition groups in Haryana have called for a state-wide protest strike on Jan. 23 to back their objections to the July 1985 peace accord, which they have termed a sell-out.

Punjab Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala, who took office last September pledging to implement the accord, said he was confident the Chandigarh transfer would take place on schedule.

'Star Wars' lasers could be a potent offensive weapon

MARINA DEL REY, California (AP) — Lasers designed for use in President Ronald Reagan's "Star Wars" programme as a shield against nuclear missiles could become an offensive weapon, incinerating a city in minutes, according to two new studies.

"In a matter of hours, a laser defence system powerful enough to cope with the ballistic missile threat can also destroy the enemy's major cities by fire," concluded a study by R and D Associates, a defence research organisation based in the Los Angeles suburb of Marina del Rey. The findings are being circulated among government scientists.

"The attack would proceed city by city, the attack time for each city being only a matter of minutes. Not nuclear destruction, but armageddon all the same," the study said.

Mr. Reagan has said his strategic defence initiative (SDI) lasers would be fired from space stations or shot from the ground and reflected off space-based mirrors, and one day might provide a defensive shield against enemy missiles.

"The lasers can be employed in a manner not contemplated," warned Albert L. Latter and Ernest A. Martinelli, authors of the study, cautioning that such a weapon could be used against the United States if the technology is shared with the Soviet Union.

"A Soviet laser weapon system... can incinerate our cities without warning on a time scale of minutes per city, minutes to hours for the whole country," Mr. Latter and Mr. Martinelli said. "To deter such an attack, the U.S. could only threaten to retaliate."

A government physicist issued similar warnings in a separate article published in the current issue of Physics and Society, a publication of the American Physical Society.

Massive fires triggered by the lasers "might be expected to generate smoke in amounts comparable to the amounts generated in some major nuclear exchange scenarios," said Caroline L. Herzenberg, a physicist at the Argonne National Laboratory near Chicago. That could cause "a climatic catastrophe similar to 'nuclear winter'," she wrote.

Many scientists believe a nuclear war would result in a nuclear winter, with a disastrous lowering of the earth's temperature.

The eight-page R and D study did not mention a nuclear winter, but stressed that lasers are not intrinsically defensive.

When asked to comment, an identified "Star Wars" official quoted by the Los Angeles Times said that lasers could start fires, but "this is not a problem that we are addressing at this time."

The official also denied that lasers designed for defence could be used as offensive weapons.

"They would have to be designed differently to cause fires," she said.

Greenpeace to press ahead with expedition to Antarctica

SYDNEY (AP) — The Greenpeace organisation made clear on Monday that its controversial expedition to Antarctica would continue, despite the loss of a British team's mother ship and renewed calls from Australia and New Zealand to abort the mission.

"I've made one more appeal to the people in Greenpeace to say, 'look you've made your point, you've made the gesture. Why don't you come back because the risk is, I think, unacceptable,'" said Australian Science Minister Barry Jones.

His appeal followed the loss over the weekend of the British ship Southern Quest, which was crushed by pack ice in the Ross Sea while it was on its way to pick up three British explorers who had just reached the South Pole.

New Zealand officials have issued similar warnings, saying Antarctica is no place for "enthusiastic amateurs" at a time when ice conditions are the worst on record.

But Peter Wilkinson, expedition leader of the Greenpeace bid to have Antarctica declared a world park, said he was aware of the dangers and the fact that the Greenpeace tug was not built for ice conditions.

"We understand that," Wilkinson said in a radio interview. "If you want an appropriate vessel to come down to Antarctica, you've got to spend millions, you've got to have ice-breaking capability."

"Even then, despite that you can still get stuck," said Mr. Wilkinson, recalling that a veteran Australian Antarctic research ship, Nella Dan, was recently trapped in pack ice for more than five weeks.

South Pole expedition spurns critics after mishap

U.S. helicopters plucked 21 passengers and crew off Ross Sea ice early on Sunday after killer ice split open the steel hull of the Southern Quest.

Ms. Lovejoy said governmental shipping should not obscure the achievement of Roger Mear, Robert Swan and Gareth Wood who, without radio contact or outside back-up, trekked across the ice for 71 days to reach Captain Robert Scott's 1911-12 race from McMurdo sound to the pole.

"People always like the morbid side of life but that achievement is just so much greater than the loss of the ship," she said.

U.S. officials said on Monday they expected everyone connected with the expedition to be evacuated from the Antarctic within 36 hours.

Washington (AP) — A private, conservative group with close ties to President Ronald Reagan's administration has endorsed Corazon Aquino, who is challenging Ferdinand Marcos in a Feb. 7 election for president of the Philippines.

The National Defence Council, which has been a prominent supporter of Reagan policies in Central America, said in a statement issued on Sunday that "Mrs. Aquino expresses democratic and anti-communist views" and her election would rejuvenate democracy in the Philippines.

"In order for democracy to be reborn in the Philippines, there must be a change from the monopolistic and authoritarian position of the current government," the defence council said. "A peaceable change must occur and it must occur now."

The council's decision to back Mrs. Aquino, the widow of assassinated opposition leader Benigno Aquino, reflects a split in American conservative ranks over Mr. Marcos.

He has been praised as a bulwark against communism by moral majority founder, the Rev. Jerry Falwell. Other conservatives expressed doubts about Mrs. Aquino's political leanings.

Mr. Marcos has repeatedly attacked Mrs. Aquino as sympathetic to communist insurgents fighting to overthrow his long autocratic rule. Mrs. Aquino has offered to allow communists into her government if they repudiate violence, but has said none will be named to her cabinet.

Raul S. Manglapus, president of the anti-Marcos Movement for a Free Philippines, said the defence council's endorsement "dramatically exploded" Mr. Marcos' charges against Mrs. Aquino and "effectively isolates Marcos from the American anti-communist community on which he has been pinning his hopes for survival."

Mr. Manglapus added that the endorsement shows "that Marcos, with his repression and corruption, is the best recruiter for the communist guerrillas."

India, Pakistan to continue talks on disputed Himalayan glacier

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Defence officials from India and Pakistan have ended two days of talks on the disputed Siachen glacier but in a joint statement did not say what, if any, progress was made.

However, the statement, issued on Sunday, said the officials agreed to meet again in New Delhi in late March or early April to discuss the dispute over the 75-kilometre glacier where their troops have clashed repeatedly in recent months, causing some casualties.

"The governments of India and Pakistan have expressed their determination to seek a peaceful and negotiated settlement of the Siachen problem," said the statement released by the two nations' defence ministries.

S.K. Bhatnagar, Indian defence secretary, and his Pakistani counterpart, Iqbal Haider Zaidi, led the two teams.

The 5,454-metre mass of ice is in the disputed Kashmir region, to which both countries have laid claim since 1947.

The statement made no mention of any progress in the talks being held as part of an agreement by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Pakistani President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq to improve relations between their neighbouring nations which have fought three wars since their formation from the partition of British India in 1947.

"The talks were held to seek a peaceful resolution of the problem of Siachen glacier as a step towards easing tension and creating an atmosphere conducive to further normalising and developing good neighbourly relations between the two countries," the statement said.

The discussions were "cordial and frank" and enabled the two teams to achieve "a better appreciation of each other's point of view," said the statement.

The Indian delegation returned to New Delhi on Sunday.

Gen. Zia and Mr. Gandhi, in their Dec. 17 meeting, agreed to a number of high level official contacts.

The sit-in started on Friday after the prosecutor's office received court warrants to interrogate seven opposition politicians accused of fighting in the assembly. The opposition New Korea Democratic Party has charged that the investigation into the Dec. 2 fracas was political harassment.

But investigating authorities said lawmakers could not be exempted from justice and should face prosecution if any violence took place in the assembly building.

The controversy began when the Democratic Justice Party approved budget bills in a secretly called session last month. No opposition members were present.

A fight broke out when angry opposition members broke into the locked conference room to protest the unilateral passage of the budget measures by the ruling

party of President Chun Doo-hwan. No-one was seriously injured.

But police and the prosecutor subsequently summoned 17 opposition lawmakers for interrogation, and they refused to comply.

On Friday, the opposition filed a complaint with the prosecutor's office accusing National Assembly Speaker Lee Cha-hyung and four other government party leaders of obstructing official business.

About 40 to 50 opposition lawmakers also began a sit-in at their office in the assembly, demanding the prosecutor scrap plans to move against the seven named in the warrants. About 200 police and plainclothesmen stood by to detain the seven unless a compromise was reached.

The compromise calls for the seven to meet investigators outside the prosecutor's office. The prosecutor agreed not to execute the warrants and to also investigate the five ruling party lawmakers named in the opposition

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Japanese stragglers reportedly helping Malaysian rebels

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Two Japanese soldiers lost in the jungle in World War II are still there, helping communist guerrillas to maintain their weapons, according to a report by the Malaysian national news agency Bernama. The agency quoted security officials as saying the outlawed Communist Party of Malaysia (CPM) found the soldiers near the Thai border in 1948 and put them to work repairing war-vintage arms and making bombs and booby traps. The two were held against their will in southern Thailand, the agency said. They had been fooled into thinking the war was still on and that the CPM was helping Japan until a CPM purge in the late 1970s, it said. The officials said the soldiers could be the remnants of a platoon lost in the jungle when Japanese invasion forces withdrew at the end of the war. CPM guerrillas who had surrendered or were captured said the two were in their mid-60s and in good health, the officials were quoted as saying. Malaysia officially estimates 2,370 communist guerrillas operate from bases in southern Thailand. British colonial forces fought a bitter guerrilla war against the CPM from 1948. The war continued for several years after Malaysia won independence in 1957 and occasional clashes are still reported.

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Party officials sacked in major Ukraine city

MOSCOW (R) — Several Communist Party officials were reported on Monday to have been sacked for abuse of power in the Ukraine, one of the few Soviet republics not to have undergone sweeping personnel changes.

The party daily Pravda said a meeting was convened in Kharkov, the republic's second largest city, to discuss mistakes in the running of the region's economy and "violations of party discipline."

The Ukraine is the power base of Vladimir Shcherbitsky, one of the last remaining old guard members of the ruling politburo associated with the era of former President Leonid Brezhnev.

The republic has so far avoided changes which have taken place across the country as part of Mikhail Gorbachev's drive to revitalise the economy and instil new blood into the top ranks. Mr. Gorbachev criticised some officials during a visit to the Ukraine soon

after becoming party chief. Pravda said the Soviet Union's chief prosecutor, Alexander Reukov, and a senior member of the party's organisational department came from Moscow to attend the Kharkov meeting, suggesting the seriousness of the investigation.

The paper said several of the officials were sacked and others reprimanded for allowing production losses of up to 200 million roubles (\$265 million) in the region's vehicle-building industry over the past five years.

The region's agricultural output was also seriously below target, it said.

Some diplomats specialising in internal Soviet politics say Mr. Shcherbitsky's position is becoming increasingly vulnerable, and believe he may finally be replaced in the run-up to next month's party congress. He became Ukrainian party chief in 1972, a year after becoming a politburo member.

Contadora calls for new peace drive in C. America

CARABALLEDA, Venezuela (R) — Eight Latin American countries called on Sunday for an urgent resumption of negotiations to bring peace to Central America.

"Faced with increasing threats to peace in Central America and the risk of a diplomatic vacuum which could heighten tension in the region, it is urgent and necessary to give new momentum to negotiations promoted by the Contadora group," they said in a joint statement after a two-day meeting of foreign ministers at this Venezuelan seaside resort.

The Contadora group of Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela has been searching for three years for a negotiated settlement to Central American conflicts.

The four founding nations were joined last year by a "support group" of Peru, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil, the other four nations attending the meeting here.

The statement called for an end to the arms race, outside intervention and the use of force so that the spirit of negotiations could be restored in the region.

It said the Contadora group should resume diplomatic activity immediately despite a Nicaraguan call for a five-month halt.

The eight countries also offered Contadora's good offices to promote a